



# FOREIGN NURSES EASE STAFF CRISIS

Report by Richard Guttridge

**DOZENS** of shifts were understaffed at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital during the past 12 months.

A report to be discussed this week reveals the hospital was unable to meet recommended staffing levels on a number of shifts.

Nurses from the Philippines and India will be recruited to help boost staffing levels on wards as hospital bosses take the recruitment drive abroad from April to fill vacancies.

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall, insisted the staff shortages did 'not necessarily' have a negative impact on patients.

Officials also said the shortages were generally spread evenly across the wards, according to a report by chief nurse Dawn Wardell.

The hospital has seen an improvement in the figures since August when 63 shifts were understaffed. During January, 20 shifts did not have the required numbers of staff to manage patients.

One 'red' shift was reported in January, which means there was a 'serious' staffing shortfall. On that occasion, staff had to be drafted to a trauma ward from elsewhere.

## Maternity

According to the hospital's targets, there should be one nurse to every 10 patients on general wards during the day. There is no specific target for night shifts.

The maternity unit is the most problematic area with around half of the understaffed shifts occurring in that department, a report to be seen by members of the board said.

Dudley Group chief executive Paula Clark said: "Patient safety is always our priority, and so when nurse staffing levels fall below the planned level, we have processes and measures in place to ensure our patients continue to receive safe, appropriate care."

"When a shortfall is identified, the situation is first reviewed by a senior nurse who will look at the remaining number of registered nurses; the number of support workers and student nurses; the number of patients being cared for on that ward and how poorly those patients are and the level of support they require."

"We will first try to fill a shortfall by utilising staff already on site at that time, this may be by moving staff between wards, pooling together teams from neighbouring wards, or asking staff not normally included in our nurse-to-patient ratios (such as matrons, specialist nurses and ward managers) to refocus their duties and work in the area where there is a clinical need."

"If arrangements cannot be made using the existing staff on site, we will then attempt to fill the shortfall from our own staff bank. If no bank staff are available, we will then employ agency staff to ensure patients receive safe, appropriate care."

## WAR VETERAN AND GRANDFATHER DIES, 94



Duncan Christison, of Wollaston, when he received the Ushakov medal for serving on the Arctic convoys that kept Russia supplied

A SECOND World War veteran who served in the Arctic Convoys and was awarded a Russian Ushakov medal has died at the age of 95. Duncan Christison, who lived in Wollaston, received the prestigious honour in 2014.

Originally from Sunderland, he died on February 14.

At the age of 16, he joined the Royal Navy at HMS Ganges, in Ipswich, going on to join HMS Birmingham before the war. He served in Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, the Antarctic, Russia and Norway.

He was due to finish and go home when the Second World War was declared. Mr Christison was relocated to the South Atlantic Fleet, one of the sailors who helped keep the Soviets supplied in their war against the Nazis, in a mission Winston Churchill described as 'the worst journey in the world'.

He was married to Jess, who died six months short of their 70th wedding anniversary in February 2014. He was one of 18 veterans from across the Black Country to be awarded the Medal of Ushakov by Russian dignitaries in that year.

He also received The Atlantic, Arctic, Africa, Italian, 1939 to 1945 star, the Malta George Cross 50th Anniversary Medal, Defence, War, long service and good conduct medals.

He is survived by a son, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Grandson, Keith Wood, aged 43, said: "We should celebrate men like my grandfather and what he stood for, he lived an incredible life."

Mr Christison was a regular at Stourbridge Royal British Legion. His funeral is on March 11 at Stourbridge Crematorium at 1.30pm.

## COURT

### Attempted murder denied by partner

A 31-year-old Dudley man has denied attempting to murder his partner.

Courier Karl Hughes, aged 31, of George Close, Kates Hill, pleaded not guilty at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Thursday to attempting to murder Toni Bennett, aged 29, on November 21 last year.

He also denied being in possession of a bladed article. He was remanded in custody for a trial to start on May 16 at the same court.

He was arrested after police were called by medics treating an injured woman in George Close.

## POLICE

### Shoppers conned by fake beggars

PROFESSIONAL beggars who are on full benefits have been attempting to dupe shoppers outside Tesco in Cradley Heath by getting them to hand over money.

Police have told the public not to give any cash to the con artists who have been posing as homeless and begging for donations outside the supermarket on Foxoak Street.

Officers revealed they had put a dispersal order in place to try to stop the gangs of beggars bothering shoppers.

## INJURED

### Taxi driver is found with fractured skull

A TAXI driver was taken to hospital suffering a fractured skull after an incident in Brierley Hill.

The man was found with serious head injuries in Bell Street South, near the junction with High Street, following an incident just before 9.30pm on Sunday.

Detective Inspector Colin Mattinson said: "An investigation has been launched after a man was found in Bell Street South, Brierley Hill, with a serious head injury. The man, a 60-year-old taxi driver, suffered a fractured skull and is being treated in hospital. It is not yet clear how he came about his injuries." Call CID on 101.

## INSIDE

### SELWYN BUILT FOR THE PAST



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# Motorcyclist died after losing control



Robert 'Claude' Christopher

A MOTORCYCLIST was killed after losing control of his bike and crashing into oncoming traffic, an inquest heard.

Robert 'Claude' Christopher, aged 39, died on December 28 last year after 'dropping' his bike to avoid a vehicle turning left towards a shop.

Three vehicles were involved in the crash on Oldbury Road, Rowley Regis, when Mr Christopher came off his bike and crashed into a Land Rover.

PC Paul du Cors from the West Midlands Police collision investigation unit, confirmed that Mr Christopher,

of Regis Heath Road, Rowley Regis, had been travelling at 50mph, above the 30mph limit. He was on his way home to try to find a lost wallet.

Also travelling with him was his friend Hal Kirk, who noticed the vehicle turning left and applied his brakes twice to signal to Mr Christopher that danger was ahead.

## Overtake

Mr Christopher had been moving to overtake the red Nissan Juke, driven by Brian Dale, who was signalling to turn towards the convenience store.

CCTV from the shop showed that Mr Dale took evasive action to avoid Mr Christopher who had 'lost control of his bike'.

Mr Christopher was pronounced dead at the scene. A pathologist's report revealed he died of head injuries as a result of the collision.

Describing Mr Christopher's death as a tragedy, coroner Mr Zafar Siddique recorded a verdict of death by way of a road traffic collision.

Mr Christopher's wife Julianne told the inquest: "Claude was always helping people. He was a family man."

# Notorious 'gang' pub closed after police plea

A PUB in Dudley, which was named as the most dangerous in the West Midlands by a senior detective, will remain closed after having its licence revoked.

The Earl of Dudley Arms, in Wellington Road, had become a 'stronghold' for a gang and was the scene of several violent attacks including a stabbing, a licensing panel was told.

Detective Chief Inspector Chris Hanson said he knew of no other pub in the West Midlands which posed more of a risk to the public.

DCI Hanson said he believed someone would be murdered if the pub had been allowed to stay open.

It was shut down by police at the end of December after the latest violent incident proved to be the final straw for the authorities.

Officers have been called to the pub more than 60 times during the last two years to deal with a string of attacks. These included an attempted murder when a man was stabbed three times.

## Chaotic

One customer was slashed across the face leaving him with a 12cm gash and another was beaten with a pool cue, while a third narrowly avoided being run over on the car park following a dispute, Dudley Council's licensing committee was told.

Police also said premises licence holder Orville Hines had often hindered investigations of incidents by being unwilling or slow to provide CCTV and statements.

DCI Hanson said the pub had a 'chaotic and violent history' and had developed such a strong association with the 'DSN gang', said to be linked to violent crime and the supply of class A drugs. He was clear that no steps other than the closure of the pub would suffice.

As a senior detective in West Midlands Police's violent crime unit, he said it was the first time he had



Staying closed - a police officer stands guard outside The Earl of Dudley Arms, in Wellington Road, after an incident

needed to become involved in a licensing matter, such was the seriousness of the situation at the Earl of Dudley Arms.

He told the hearing: "I can think of no licensed premises within our force area which presents such a danger to the public than the Earl of Dudley."

"We have had a stabbing, a slashing, people beaten with pool cues, threatened with weapons."

"It is my genuine belief if these premises remain open, managed by Mr Hines, someone will end up being murdered."

The licence was revoked by Dudley Council's licensing committee at a meeting on last week.

Councillor Donella Russell, chairman of the licensing committee, said the risk of a death on the premises was one it was not prepared to take.

A 23-year-old man was left fighting for his life in May 2014 after being stabbed as violence flared outside the Earl of Dudley Arms.

Residents and councillors previously welcomed the closure of the pub following the outbreaks of violence.

Dudley's Councillor Khurshid

Ahmed at the time said: "It is quite shocking people have been put at such risk and as a ward councillor, my main concern is the protection of their health and safety."

A nearby business owner, who did not wish to be named, said: "It's been a big problem for everyone in this area. It's a relief that this notice has been served."

When they initially called for closure, police said the owners had failed to protect customers by 'allowing members local gangs to frequent the premises.'

# Tidy award success for money-saving recycle plan

A RECYCLING scheme introduced following the regeneration of Dudley Market has scooped an award.

Dudley Council has been recognised at environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy's annual awards, winning the Partnership Award category.

Following the £6.7 million market redevelopment, the street cleansing team working with traders and local organisations introduced the new scheme.

A cardboard recycling facility was introduced and waste food from the market is now donated to an animal sanctuary - reducing waste going into landfill by 60 per cent.

Council chiefs said this has saved the authority nearly £35,000 a year.

By reducing overall waste, fewer collections are needed at the site, saving around £27,000 a year.

Increasing the quality of the recycled cardboard generates an income of approximately £5,500 a year, while donating spoilt produce to the animal sanctuary saves the charity £5,000 a year in animal feed bills.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "Congratulations to the street cleansing team for achieving this award and for working so closely with traders and the community to make this new and innovative recycling scheme such a massive success. It's also wonderful to see that food, once destined for landfill, is now feeding animals at a local sanctuary."

Dudley Council was one of 11 winners whose achievements were recognised.

# Jewellery thieves targeting elderly

THIEVES are putting fake jewellery around the neck of elderly women as they steal their real jewellery.

Tricksters, believed to be from Eastern Europe, have struck in Dudley borough. Victims as old as 90 have been targeted by the gang.

In one incident, on February 10, the 90-year-old woman was approached by two women and a man in a car asking for directions at Avondale Close, Kingswinford. The apparently thankful women got out of the car and placed fake gold chains around the victim's neck while they stole the genuine jewellery. Another woman, aged 72, was targeted on Malt Mill Lane, Halesowen, and a 79-year-old on Prospect Road, Lower Gornal. Call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

# Expansion plans for nursery submitted

A NURSERY in Netherton is hoping to expand after submitting plans to Dudley Council.

A scheme has been submitted by Netherton Park Nursery School and Kindergarten, which, if approved, would be built next to its current location.

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# Honour for uni doctor who assists GP training

A DOCTOR from Stourbridge received an MBE from Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace for services to General Practice.

Clare Taylor, aged 36, a former pupil of Summerhill School in Kingswinford, went on to study at King Edward VI College in Stourbridge before studying medicine at the University of Cambridge. She graduated with a distinction in 2003.

After further training, Clare moved to Birmingham in 2007 to complete academic general practice training, and is now an academic GP at the University of Birmingham. She combines research and teaching with clinical practice.

Since 2007 she has been very involved with the work of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) in London, which has more than 50,000 members, and was chairman of their Associates in Training Committee between 2008 to 2009.

She went on to establish and lead the RCGP First5 initiative, which supports new GPs through the formative years of independent practice.

Clare, who now lives near Stourbridge, said: "I couldn't have been more surprised, I never expected to receive this kind of honour, particularly at this stage in my career."

"I think it is a recognition of the work we've been doing to support GP trainees and new GPs."

"It was big team effort so I feel very privileged to have been honoured," she added.

# Appeal got driver extra week in jail

A MOTORIST who ran down a policeman has been handed an extra week behind bars for wasting the time of judges with a 'hopeless' appeal bid.

Geoffrey Dillion, aged 52, of Burnt Tree, Tipton, was locked up for two-and-a-half years at Wolverhampton Crown Court on July 7 after being convicted of dangerous driving and driving while disqualified. He argued at the Appeal Court in London that the convictions were 'unsafe' and his sentence too tough.

But Lord Justice Gross – sitting with Mr Justice Dove – said there was 'no merit' in his complaints. He told him: "This was a hopeless application in every sense and an expensive and time-wasting exercise." Dillion was ordered to serve an extra seven days.

# £1,200 fraud is denied by man, 55

A MAN has denied a £1,200 fraud in the village of Iverley, near Stourbridge. David Hughes, 55, of Hambleton Road, Halesowen, will appear at Stafford Crown Court on March 29 accused of a false representation.

# Disgraced inspector aims to clear name



Jaswant Singh - former police inspector

A DISGRACED police inspector is on a mission to clear his name after he was sacked for misconduct last year.

Jaswant Singh, from Stourbridge, was dismissed by a West Midlands Police disciplinary panel in November after he was found to have 'deliberately lied' to his chief inspector to try and cover up an error.

The officer told colleagues to 'take their time' despite officers needing urgent help dealing with violent yobs at Olivio pizza shop in Stourbridge town centre in February 2014.

Mr Singh has now employed solicitor Kevin Hall to launch his bid to clear his name and is. The findings will then be put before the force's chief constable.

Mr Hall said: "At approximately 2.20am on the morning of February 23, 2014, a disorder took place at Olivio Pizza, High Street, Stourbridge. As part of his appeal against dismissal witnesses are urgently sought."

They are keen to locate a woman who was seen filming the incident on her phone and a door supervisor working at the takeaway. The panel concluded Mr Singh, who had 24 years service, had breached professional standards relating to honesty and integrity and said his actions 'fell short' of that expected of a senior officer.

They also found he had lied about being at the scene. It was alleged in the hearing that he had gone to the wrong pizza shop. The former senior officer denied the allegations.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Kevin Hall, Excalibur Investigations Limited on 07957 177173, on behalf of Askew Solicitors, Coventry.

# Man, 69, killed himself over knotweed fears

A MAN killed himself after finding out that Japanese knotweed was growing on land he owned in Stourbridge, an inquest heard.

William Jones was worried about the financial implications of the weed spreading onto public land adjacent to his.

At Smethwick Council House last week, lead coroner for the Black Country Mr Zafar Siddique concluded that Mr Jones, known as Bill to his friends and family, of Brettell Lane, Ambicote, died by way of suicide.

The inquest heard he was found hanged at home by one of his sons on February 13.

At the hearing, Mr Jones' wife Helen said her husband, a former butcher, owned a piece of land in Brook Street which had recently been surveyed and revealed that Japanese knotweed was growing on the site.

She said: "He was worried about the financial implications of it, it grows so rapidly."

"He was a family man. If he had thought it through I'm sure he would have never gone through with it."

Mr Jones had been expected to pick up his wife after a shopping trip on the day of his death, the inquest heard.

## Depression

"He sounded quite cheery on the phone," Mrs Jones added. "But then I made three calls to the house and he didn't pick up. So I called my son who went into the house and found him."

She said her husband had no financial worries when he died. She added he was worried the weed would spread onto public owned land next to his land.

Mr Jones, aged 69, who had a history of depression, was taken to Russell's Hall Hospital in Dudley. He was suffering from brain damage and died a day later on February 14. The cause of death was confirmed as hypoxic brain damage due to attempted hanging.

"Bill was the type of person who always liked to find the answer to things," Mrs Jones added. "But this is one thing he couldn't find the answer to."

In March 2014 an inquest heard how a lab technician from Rowley Regis murdered his wife before killing himself after being driven 'mad' by Japanese knotweed growing over his house. Kenneth McRae and his wife Jane were found dead at their home on Bryan Budd Close, Rowley Regis, on July 17, 2013.



The wrecked Renault Scenic is recovered from the Stourbridge Canal near Ashwood Junction after it was dumped by vandals on Monday

# Car was pushed in canal by yobs

AN empty car was pushed into a canal by three yobs.

The Renault Scenic estate was reported to have been left running unattended in Fisher Street at 6.30am on Monday and is believed to have then been stolen. Just over an hour later at 7.45am, a nearby resident alerted the police after witnessing three people push the car into the canal near Ashwood Junction.

Passer-by Steve Basterfield was walking with his granddaughter when he spotted the car. He said: "I saw the Renault, which look to have just been dumped, full of water with smashed windows. An auto-rescue team arrived very soon after I called and one of the workers put on a water suit and jumped in to the canal to retrieve and drag it out."

Police spokesman Deb Edmonds said: "We first received a call at 6.30am Monday to reports of a Renault Scenic being left running unattended in Fisher Street. It was seen a short time later being pushed into the Stourbridge canal by three people."

Anyone with information should call 101.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

# Motorist in court over crash death

A 22-year-old Dudley man has appeared in court charged with causing death by dangerous driving.

Jordan Edwards, of Terry Street, was arrested last week in connection with the death of Gary Wroblewski, after handing himself in to police. Mr Wroblewski, 53, was found by paramedics in the road in Netherton on November 6. He could not be saved.

Unemployed Edwards appeared before Dudley Magistrates Court, where he was remanded in custody to appear before Wolverhampton Crown Court on March 22.

# Carers can link up with history group

CARERS in Dudley borough are invited to join a new monthly group to research family history.

The group will meet at the Dudley Archives and Local History Centre on the Tipton Road in Dudley and professional support and resources will be available. Activities will be available at the centre for the person who is cared for while the carer takes part in the family history group.

The first meeting is on Monday from 10.30am to 12.30pm. All sessions are free but must be booked. Call (01384) 818360 or (01384) 812770.

# Five walk routes to choose from

WALKERS are being urged to put their best foot forward and sign up for the 36th Dudley trail on May 1.

Walks of six, nine, 12, 20 and 28 miles are on offer with routes covering the industrial heritage of the borough. All walks start from Dudley Leisure Centre. Booking costs £3 per person for the 28 and 20 mile routes, £2.50 for the 12 and nine-mile and £1.50 for the six-mile route. An additional 50p will be charged for entries on the day. See dudley.gov.uk/dudleytrail

# MP sees red over US gridiron club's name

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin is leading a move to stop a top American Football club playing at Wembley Stadium unless they change their name, which he considers a 'racial slur'.

The Labour MP has hit out at plans by the NFL to send the Washington Redskins to play in London this autumn. They are due to play Cincinnati Bengals on October 30. Critics say the club's continued use of the Redskins name and logo promotes stereotyping of Native Americans.

## Old pictures of town

ARCHIVE photographs of old West Bromwich will be shown at the meeting of Sedgley Local History Society, on Thursday, March 10. Vice-chairman of Tipton Civic Society, Keith Hodgkins, will bring the pictures to the meeting at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street. Admission £1.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



JO Heywood, head of a very upmarket boarding school in Ascot, says children should be raised gender-neutral and "if a little girl wants to spend time in a fireman's outfit, then that is to be encouraged." Tut, tut, headteacher. Isn't she aware that there is no such thing as a fireman's outfit because there is no such thing as a fireman? In these politically-correct times, they are all fire fighters.

AS for encouraging females to get into fire fighters' outfits, many need absolutely no encouragement. Ask any male stripper.

THE revelation that Pope John Paul II had a long relationship with a married woman raises once again the troubled issue of celibacy in the Catholic Church. A Daily Telegraph reader says he knew of a village priest living in Czechoslovakia in the 1920s who employed an attractive housekeeper who had a young son: "Everybody knew who the father was and they all lived happily ever after."

I AM reminded of Dave Allen's tale of the handsome priest in an Irish village. All the locals called him Father except his own children who called him Uncle.

ONE of the delusions of our celebrity-obsessed age is that if someone plays an intelligent character on the TV, that actor must be brilliant in real life. We hacks are more sceptical. When you interview celebs you find that, without a script, most of them are quite ordinary. So let's not get too excited about a group of showbiz characters, led by Jude Law, descending on the Jungle refugee camp at Calais and offering great insights into what must be done. We should not assume that the opinions of playwrights and comedians count for more than those of plumbers or teachers.



AN advert catches my eye. A big national charity which pays its chief executive £120,000 a year wants a manager for a small-town charity shop. The salary, for a 30-hour week, is £14,000 a year. My spies tell me such rates are the norm for charity-shop employees. It's surprising no-one has set up a charity for them.

I HAVE seen nothing in the EU debate this week to shift me from my original view that whether you want to stay in the EU or quit, the only sensible course of action is to vote to leave. First we vote, then we haggle.

DAVID Cameron urges us to "choose security, safety and certainty" and stay in the EU. Can anyone explain what level of security, safety and certainty you get in a club of 28 nations which, in the next few years, may be joined by Turkey, Serbia and Ukraine?

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Father-to-be warned after pub incident

A 23-year-old man has avoided a spell behind bars after admitting affray. James Harley slapped a man in the face before throwing a chair at him and his friend on Christmas Eve.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Harley had approached the man asking for the identity and location of another man in The Swan pub in Kingswinford.

According to prosecutor Mr Oliver Woolhouse, Harley then struck out at the man before throwing the chair. A disturbance followed in which another man received a cut to his head and had to go to hospital for treatment.

Harley, of Hazel Road, Kingswinford, did not inflict the injury to the other man, and told police after his arrest that the man he slapped

became aggressive. He admitted affray and was given a nine-month jail term suspended for 18 months by Recorder Timothy Raggatt QC. Harley was ordered to pay £1,000 towards the costs of the prosecution and to complete 100 hours of unpaid work.

Harley had admitted the offence breached an eight-month suspended prison sentence imposed for assault and theft, Recorder Ragatt warned

he would almost certainly be jailed if he came before the court again. He said: "Disorder of this kind in a public house is a serious matter and normally crosses the custody threshold. You have a history of such irresponsible behaviour when in drink."

Mr Mukhtar Ubhi, defending, said Harley and his partner was expecting their first child, adding: "He is now determined to turn his life around."

# Immigrant stole to pay surgery bill for mother

By John Scott

**AN IMMIGRANT who turned to crime to pay for his mother's surgery in Albania has been put behind bars for two years.**

Fatmir Brozi had lawfully lived in this country for 14 years and is married to a British citizen, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

During that time he had been convicted of a single previous offence, an affray following a dispute at work.

But last year the 32-year-old burgled two homes in seven months, escaping with cash and jewellery worth more than £65,000, said Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

Brozi forced a door and smashed a window to burgle the house of a 71-year-old woman with a disabled daughter in Birds Meadow, Pensnett, on May 24, taking property worth £2,760.

## Bloodstain

He cut himself and left a bloodstain that was later used to match with his DNA.

Brozi was arrested and was on bail when he broke into a second home during a trip to Great Yarmouth in December. He took £60,000 worth of jewellery and £2,500 cash but damaged his knuckle and was identified through another bloodstain.

Mr Gurdeep Garcha, defending, observed: "He is far from a professional burglar, having left clues to his identity at both scenes. He turned to crime to get money for an operation for his mother who fell ill and needed surgery back in Albania. He had regularly sent money home since arriving in this country."

Brozi, from Addlington Way, Tividale, admitted both burglaries and was jailed for two years by Judge Katrina Montgomery QC. She told him: "You made off with a substantial amount of cash and jewellery - some of which was irreplaceable."

She ordered the money found in his possession when arrested be returned to the victim in Norfolk since it came from that burglary.

## Ace revamp starts for tennis club



Work starts at club, from left, Adrian Hyde, Brian Lester, Mark Wild, Claire Colling, Caroline Tringham, Carl Stephenson, Maria Siviter, Luke Singh, Paul Parry, Lisa Colling, Debbie Glazzard

A £100,000 project to rebuild a Black Country tennis club has begun after vital funding was secured.

Work to rebuild Wall Heath Tennis Club in Kingswinford began last Monday after grants were awarded from Cory Environmental Trust in Britain (CETB), Istock Cory Environmental (ICET) and Dudley Community Forum.

The project gained planning permission in March last year and got wide-scale community support. It will enable the club to further promote, develop and sustain tennis at all levels in the community.

Work is set to be completed in May. The project will see the clubhouse demolished and replaced with a new

one, complete with a changing facilities with disabled access.

Claire Colling, Wall Heath Tennis Club secretary, said: "We are delighted that work has finally begun."

The club set a target of £100,000 for funding, and CETB offered half of this at £50,000. ICET granted the club £15,000 and Dudley Community Forum added £5,000.

The club had already successfully raised £3,500 through its own fundraising activities, which will cover the cost of the building work.

The club will continue to fundraise to cover landscaping costs and to buy new furniture.

# Jobs lost at boiler firm and security company

AN HISTORIC Black Country boiler company has gone into administration, wiping out the jobs of its 38-strong workforce.

It comes just 18 months after Robey Boilers Supplies and Services was saved in a buyout by its own management.

In 2014 bosses at the former Robey Wellman, now Robey Boilers Supplies and Services, put together a deal to buy the company, saving 52 jobs at the Newfield Road factory.

But last week administrators from Birmingham firm Smith Cooper were called in by directors as the company struggled amid a fresh crisis.

The reasons for the latest collapse are unclear, but Richard Tonks, of Smith Cooper, said the firm had been appointed as administrators and had immediately shut the business down, making all 38 employees redundant.

Documents filed at Companies House show the company had changed its name twice in August last year, most recently to Robey Boilers Supplies and Services. It designed, made and maintained boilers and furnace equipment. The company had been at the Oldbury site for more than 150 years, tracing its roots back to 1840 and iron boat and boilermaking firm of Danks of Netherton.

Meanwhile a Cradley Heath-based company, which supplies security and surveillance systems to more than 4,000 commercial sites, is planning to shed more than 50 jobs. Defence Security Systems at Sapcote Trading Estate, Powke Lane, employed 98.

## 13th birthday for zoo lemur Frank

DUDLEY Zoo has been celebrating the 13th birthday of its much-loved Lemur, Frank.

He has been called one of the 'busiest fathers on site', living in Lemur Wood with his partner, Phoebe, and seven of his eight offspring.

Upper Primates senior keeper, Sophie Dugmore, said: "We'll treat Frank to a few raisins and bananas on his big day - as they're some of his favourite treats."

"He's enjoying life in Lemur Wood and has settled in really well with the rest of his brood."

As well as his offspring - Itzy, Bitzy, Icarus, Kinich, Nelly, Kelly and Spock and partner, Phoebe, Frank also shares the wood with the collard, black and black-and-white ruffed lemurs.

## Murray leading Davis Cup defence in Brum

ANDY Murray will be in the West Midlands to lead Great Britain's defence of the Davis Cup. Murray, who became a father for the first time earlier this month, will be at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena with the British team from tomorrow (Friday).

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hotel hosts chance to be hit as a Miss

AUDITIONS for places in the final of the annual Miss Black Country competition will be held in Brierley Hill next weekend.

The Copthorne Hotel is the venue for the auditions on Sunday, March 13, from 1pm to 4pm.

Entries are open to 16 to 25-year-olds at [www.missenglandwm.com/en-ter-miss.html](http://www.missenglandwm.com/en-ter-miss.html)

The winner of Miss Black Country will go through to the Miss England competition. Last year's Miss Black Country was Jade Secker from Wombourne.

Shoppers' £345 for cancer charity

A MORE than token gesture by shoppers in a Stourbridge store has led to a £345 cheque going to a cancer charity.

Staff from Waitrose in The Ryemarket presented the cheque to White House Cancer support manager Caroline Webb at the charity's Dudley HQ.

The funds were raised by a cross-country in-store scheme whereby shoppers vote for charitable organisations, chosen by the public, by placing tokens in a Community Matters box. The more tokens per cause, the greater the donation made by Waitrose.

Macmillan advice bus to visit town

MACMILLAN Cancer Support's information bus is coming to Stourbridge ahead of Prostate Cancer Awareness month.

In the UK 119 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer every day. Moray Hayman, of Macmillan, said: "We are encouraging anyone with questions to come and see us, whether it's about prostate or any other type of cancer."

The bus will stop off in Stourbridge today (Thursday) at Crown Square, from 10am until 4pm.

More jobs as software firm expands globally

MORE than 30 jobs will be created as a Black Country software firm doubles in size following a £700,000 investment. Oldbury company Chrysalis, which creates software to help companies retain customers, is to roll out its services across the world. Chrysalis, based in Swallowfield Courtyard, currently employs 20 staff. Managing director Jolyon Barker said: "With this new investment from Finance Birmingham, we will be able to continue to expand our business."

Choir joined by guests

THE Band of the Royal Corps of Signals will be guests of Kingswinford's Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir at Dudley Town Hall on March 19 at 7.30pm. Tickets on 01746 765850. The choir also to perform at Holy Trinity Church, Wordsley, on Saturday at 7.30pm.

Boy racer, 24 fell foul of area ban on car cruising

A DRIVER who raced through the Black Country has been handed a suspended jail term after four councils united to launch a civil court action against car cruisers.

Reece Sheeran was given a suspended three-month sentence by a judge at a High Court hearing in Birmingham last week. Judge David Worster imposed the sentence after concluding that Sheeran, aged 24, had raced a vehicle 'at speed against another vehicle' in West Bromwich in breach of the court order.

Another judge had made the order just over a year earlier following an application by the four Black Country local authorities - Wolverhampton City Council, Dudley Council, Sandwell Council and Walsall Council. The order bars people from taking part in a 'car cruise' in areas managed by the councils. Council bosses described the legal action as 'ground-breaking'.

Judge Worster said Sheeran had been racing in May on the A41 dual carriageway in the borough of Sandwell in breach of an order made in December 2014.

He concluded that Sheeran, of Dogpool Lane, Stirchley, Birmingham, was in contempt of court after he admitted breaching the injunction.

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "Car cruising - the act of drivers meeting on the public highway on either an organised or impromptu basis to race or show off in their cars - is noisy, dangerous and illegal."

Tory and Labour by-election wins

LABOUR and Conservatives each held a council seat after two by-elections in Dudley.

On an electoral turnout of 18 per cent in St James' ward, Labour's Cathryn Bayton was elected with 847 votes (46 per cent) to the seat left vacant following the death of Labour councillor Mary Roberts. UKIP's Graeme Lloyd polled 554 and Conservative Wayne Sullivan 427 votes.

The Conservatives held Kingswinford North and Wall Heath. Edward Lawrence polled 1,456 votes (54 per cent) to retain the seat left vacant by the resignation of Natalie Neale. Labour's Lynn Boleyn got 934 votes. UKIP's Mick Forsyth polled 262 and The Green Party's Andi Mohr 52 votes. Total turnout was 26 per cent.

Learn more about adopting a child

BARNARDO'S has organised advice on fostering and adoption. As part of LGBT Fostering and Adoption Week, it has an event at its office in Great Cornbow, Halesowen, on Thursday, March 10. Call 0121 550 5271.

Carer threatened dementia patient



Pauline Demaurie - ill-treatment

"YOU don't want to worry, you just hope the people who end up in that profession do it for the right reasons."

These are the words of a family of a dementia patient who suffered at the hands of a carer at a West Bromwich care home.

Pauline Demaurie was found guilty of ill treating 87-year-old Edward Bridge at Lyndon Hall Care Home in West Bromwich after secret camera footage was passed to police by relatives. The camera had been hidden in Mr Bridge's room by his daughter, concerned about bruises on his body.

During sentencing, Judge Kristine Montgomery said care homes were 'places of refuge and safety' where families should be able to feel loved ones were protected.

Footage showed Demaurie, aged 40, of California Road, Tividale, aiming blows towards Mr Edwards and threatening to pinch him.

Judge Montgomery said her actions were 'grossly inappropriate'.

Mr Bridge suffered with Paget's disease which meant he felt pain at the slightest touch. He was heard crying out in pain on the footage.

His grandson Steven Lloyd-Warren said the family felt let down by what happened at the care home. He said: "You do have a trust in care homes. You don't want to worry, you just hope the people who end up in that profession do it for the right reasons and care."

Demaurie was ordered to complete 100 hours of unpaid work.

Former steelworker Mr Bridge, who was originally from Northern Ireland but lived in Great Barr for most of his life, has since died. Mr Lloyd-Warren said the verdict was justice for him.

More money being spent on towpaths network

A PROJECT to transform historic towpaths along Dudley's canals has been given a £460,000 boost.

The extra cash is part of a wider £1.7 million revamp bidding to get more people to explore the borough on foot and by cycle.

Public transport co-ordinator Centro awarded Dudley Council an additional £460,000 as part of their Managing Short Trips project. It will enable the restoration of towpaths surrounding the Buckpool Nature Reserve and The Dell Stadium in Pensnett.

Waterside walkways will be restored during a programme of works aiming to get people more active.

Three canal routes in Dudley were originally earmarked for improvement - with work getting under way on a series of towpaths around Stourbridge last year.

Cycling links will also be created between Brierley Hill and Pensnett and Stourbridge and Kingswinford as part of the project.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said the extra money would now enable more towpaths to be restored.

Encouraging

She said: "The Managing Short Trips project is all about getting people out of cars and on bikes and walking to work instead of driving."

"Centro bid for the money and then local authorities decide on what they would like to do."

"So far the money we have received has gone towards our first project of revamping towpaths in Stourbridge by the Bonded Warehouse area and Kinver Street basin."

"Now we will concentrate on our second project being around the Pensnett area, which will see canal towpaths fully restored."

Councillor Bills added that since the work done so far there had been 'encouraging statistics' about an increase in people using the paths.

"The work has really livened up the buildings all along the canal side too. It is lovely to see people out and about and stopping at a cafe or shop at the end of the paths."

"We have other ideas to start work on a possible third project on towpaths around Halesowen as well - that is something we may be concentrating on in the future," she said.

Bishop tours emergency services



Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev Graham Usher, chatted with firefighters during his emergency services tour

THE Bishop of Dudley completed a tour of the town's emergency services to find out more about the work they do.

Rt Rev Graham Usher started his visits at Dudley Fire Station, before heading to Brierley Hill Police Station and then Dudley Ambulance Hub.

He said: "I was delighted to be able to spend a whole day visiting the fire, police and ambulance services in Dudley and to experience

the incredible work of the emergency services across our borough."

"It was good to meet staff and to hear more about the challenges and joys of their work. The challenges are often around budget cuts and the misuse of these precious services by the public."

The Bishop chatted to firefighters and donned breathing apparatus to take part in a simulation of a search in a smoke-filled building. At the police station, he met

with Chief Superintendent Richard Fisher before being given a tour of the station, including the cells.

Finally he spoke to ambulance service area manager Mark Chapman and ambulance crews about their life-saving work.

He said: "Society owes the women and men of the emergency services an enormous debt of gratitude for their skill, care, dedication and commitment."

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

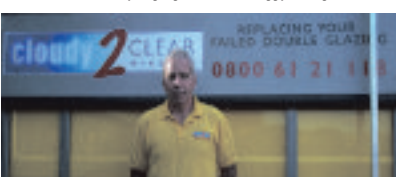
Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated." So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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## IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# £100k and you can land one on me, Jezza

FORMER Top Gear producer Oisín Tymon has just been awarded £100,000 in compensation for the rumpus where he took one for the team after Jeremy Clarkson was denied his steak dinner.

Now, of course, former Chronicle motoring writer Clarkson's actions were totally unacceptable, and Mr Tymon has quite rightly been kept on by the BBC.

Even so, it's quite a tidy little windfall, particularly given that Mr Tymon has suffered no financial hardship as a result of the incident.

To put it into context, when I took a pasting off two drunken louts while going about my business in Stourbridge 11 years ago this week, I got £1,800 in compensation for two broken ribs and a scar.

The moral is, I suppose, if you are going to get a hiding, best make sure it is at the hands of someone famous. And Jezza, please feel free to deck me one if you are passing.

□□□

LAST week it was reported that the world was finally catching up with me, with cassette tapes making a long overdue comeback.

Now it emerges that another of my great loves is being adopted by the London hipster crowd. As a former judge of the Banks's Pork Idol competition (check it out, it's true), I used to think KVE Golden Roast scratching were the height of Black Country sophistication. But my tastes have broadened. These days I'm quite partial to The Snaffling Pig Co's gourmet range sprinkled with cracked black pepper, or its sea salt and balsamic vinegar line.

Anyway, sales of pork scratchings are up nearly 11 per cent on last year, with the likes of Fortnum & Mason and Harrods jumping aboard the pig-wagon.

Just goes to show: Some people are dedicated followers of fashion. Others just lead.

□□□

NEVER understood the appeal of the Oscars. Or the Baftas, the Brits, or the Grammys for that matter.

If you like a film, you like it. You don't need some silver-haired critic on the other side of the Atlantic to validate your choice. And it's the same with music. If you're a lifelong fan of Showaddywaddy, that's fine. You don't listen to Adele because she's got an armful of tiny record players.

So who thought it would make it more interesting for this year's Oscar winners to drone on about politics?

Look, Lenny Capri, or whatever you call yourself, your job is to memorise the lines that someone else has written, not to bore the pants off us about global warming. It's the equivalent of the washing machine repair man offering tips about the Tokyo stock market. Stick to what you're good at.



Potty about history – Selwyn working on one of the projects



Selwyn Owens with museum chief executive Ian Walden in 2006



Selwyn's most satisfying project the Worker's Institute

# Selwyn helped rebuild Black Country history

**RICHARD GUTTRIDGE** meets Selwyn Owens, who helped create the authentic look of the Black Country Living Museum

**IT is one of the region's most iconic attractions which visitors come from around the world to see. But if it wasn't for Selwyn Owens, the Black Country Living Museum would not be what it is today.**

Selwyn has retired after almost 30 years and while he is leaving the museum the mark he has left on it will last for generations.

Many of the famous buildings which line the museum's streets were reconstructed by Selwyn. As construction manager, he was responsible for making sure they were built without a hitch.

Selwyn joined what was still a fledgling museum in 1987, intrigued by the possibility of transforming the site into one of the region's greatest attractions.

He had previously worked for local authorities in Wolverhampton and Birmingham but decided the time was right for a new challenge. And it was a decision he didn't regret.

## Mastermind

The construction boss would go on to mastermind many of the museum's most famous construction jobs, including the entire 1930s-style Birmingham Road – one of the museum's two main streets. He also led the reconstruction of Cradley Heath's Worker's Institute, the Victorian St James' School, which was originally in Salop Street, the Lime-light cinema from Brierley Hill and the traditional sweet shop.

He said: "The 30 years have absolutely flown past. I have been so busy so involved in these projects that I haven't had time to stop or stand still at all."

Seeing a project through from start to finish could be an exhausting challenge.

Of the majority of the buildings Selwyn, who



Black Country Museum Living Museum construction manager Selwyn Owens is retiring

is now 65, said: "I would draw them up, how they are going to look. It's a team game, it's not all down to me but my work involves the technical drawings, surveys, procurement of materials and the quality control of the building going up."

There is one building in particular that will always have a special place in his heart because of the peculiar way that it came to exist.

An American man had come to the Black Country to trace his family history and had learned his ancestors had once ran a sweet shop in Dudley called Cookes. He then ap-

proached the museum to see if they could recreate it."

Selwyn said: "We painstakingly replicated that shop from a suitable building after the curators at the time gave me a photograph."

"I remember in the front of that photo there was a man, his wife and a little girl. We managed to track her (the little girl) down and by then she was in her 80s and in a wheelchair. She broke down in tears and said 'it's exactly how I remember it'. I broke down in tears. That's the kind of job it is."

The museum's sweet shop building is based

on what was then a hairdressers in Oldbury. There are some buildings, including the mine entrance, which Selwyn has had to dream up himself based on research.

"You really have to sit down and think about the design, the materials, the position on the site and the relationship with other buildings," he said.

The job has thrown up many challenges over the years but there is one in particular that stands out.

He said: "We had problems with the Worker's Institute. We had put it out to an outside contractor to do it but it went into liquidation leaving us in a right mess."

"We managed to finish it and it was immensely satisfying to be able to pick it up when it had already started and finish it."

Because of the experience, the Worker's Institute remains among the projects he is most proud of.

## Fruition

Although the Rolf Street Baths took 10 years to come to fruition, it was generally 12 to 18 months from when a building was first sketched by Selwyn to when it was completed at the museum.

He said: "The ways of doing things are a bit strange. It took me probably 18 months to change thought process. Having worked in local government and for a contractor it was all about doing the job as quickly as possible and making a profit. The change at the museum was that it was all about quality and authenticity. That was the main criteria."

Selwyn said he was proud to see how the museum had grown over the last three decades, particularly as he is a born and bred Dudley man.

"It's extremely satisfying. Every time I go back down there I get a real buzz from seeing all the buildings. People come from all over the world and it's great to see."

"I am immensely proud of what I have helped to achieve as part of a team forming the museum. It has been a labour of love but after 30 years it is time for a rest."

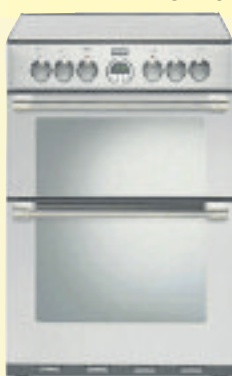
Although retired, Selwyn has already been coaxed into going back to the museum on a part-time basis to help with the next project.

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# Added worry of the parking meter ticking

LAST year I wrote of the closure of the Holly Hall medical call-in centre closing and moving to Russells Hall Hospital A&E department.

On Saturday evening my daughter phoned me to say that my grandson was running a very high temperature, would I drive them to the walk-in centre at Russells Hall Hospital if needed.

An hour and a half later, emergency 111 rang back saying take him to the walk-in.

An hour and a half later they saw him. I then left as they decided to take him to a ward with a suspected

chest infection. He was not taken to a ward, they were left in the parents' room. There was nowhere for him to lie, so he was curled up in his mother's arms, running a high temperature in an exceptionally hot room. The hospital discharged him at 1am on Sunday morning saying there was nothing wrong.

On Tuesday I returned him with his mother to the same hospital. He was taken to the examination ward and again they said they could find nothing wrong, but decided to keep him 48 hours. Once he was admitted he had

very good service by the medical staff. My grandson was discharged Wednesday night with medication.

There was better and faster service at the original walk-in centre, up to hospital admittance. The surroundings were not so daunting for a child and it was free to park. For every one and a half hours I parked it cost £5. I am the first to say money doesn't matter were health and life is concerned, but the worry of the meter ticking increases the pressure.

**N CADDICK**  
Dudley

## Doubtful over open air theatre

WHILST I am in favour of the improvements to Dudley town centre, I cannot understand the site approved for the outdoor theatre.

Unless there are going to be massive speakers installed, it will be impossible to hear any performances, as it is very close to the road and traffic noise will be a problem.

As Stone Street Square is under-used, it would have been better situated there.

The weather will also be a factor in its success.

The site looks good but the practicality is a bit dubious.

Only time will tell.

The council seems obsessed with creating open spaces while the plan for the Hippodrome site is becoming a joke.

Save the Hippodrome – it could be used for all types of entertainment, seven days a week, regardless of the weather, and for the benefit of all.

**P WINCHURCH**  
Dudley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

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### EMAIL

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expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and **MUST** include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Come on Dave, why not cut the spin?

NO sooner has the starting gun fired, then the usual letter appears sponsored by the David Cameron spin doctors, ie the Tory donors, promising the apocalypse if we leave the European Union.

Then Dave claims our security is at risk if we leave. Hang on Dave, you put our security at risk along with Osborne by all your cuts to the armed forces, the police, etc.

To prove it just walk around any neighbourhood and count how many bobbies you see on the beat, but don't count the cardboard cut outs we see in shop doorways.

If we leave the EU, the country will not sink, there will be no famine. More than half the world are not in the EU, and they prosper a lot better than we do.

Alternatively vote for Dave, the man who stood drinking beer with the Chinese leaders, whilst watching our steel industry sink. He promised to cut immigration to under 100,000. I bet Dave has not told you it will be in the millions if we don't leave now.

Oh and by the way Dave, don't forget to wear your hi-vis vest, or do your rolled up sleeves routine, pretending to be a normal working person.

**C LLOYD**  
Dudley

## Tune to halt all of this electrickery

FRENCH-OWNED electricity producer Engie has quietly announced closure of another power station. This time it's Rugeley. Why?

Well its coal-fired and our Government wants all of them closed or wood burning by 2025! Or could it be that they hope/expect to get better rates of payment come autumn for power coming from gas-fired plants? Could it be that with our worsening deficit of supply compared to potential demand they expect to get higher rates for 'electricrickery'? Could we be about to be 'persuaded' to pay them more to supply us with a basic need?

Although wholesale prices for electricity have plummeted (like gas and oil) no savings have been passed on to consumers. Let's have MPs do something about this, before we have people dying because they are unable to keep the power flowing.

**M GOUGH**  
Wombourne



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# Authorities drastically slash spending on CCTV network

COUNCILS have slashed their spending on CCTV drastically over the past three years, new figures reveal.

Local authorities across the whole of the UK committed at least £277 million to the installation, maintenance and also monitoring of the systems between 2012 and 2015, research by campaign group Big Brother Watch found.

The report also reveals during that period local authorities have reduced the number of cameras by 12.5 per cent and reduced spending on CCTV by 46.6 per cent. Between 2012 and 2015, Wolverhampton council spent a total of £291,600 operating 131 cameras compared to over £1.6m on 244 from 2007 and 2011.

## Robert Plant to headline at Wilderness

BLACK Country rock star Robert Plant is headlining a summer music festival in the Cotswolds.

The former Led Zeppelin singer and his band The Sensational Space Shifters are top of the bill at the Wilderness Festival, held at Cornbury Park, near Oxford, from August 4 to 7.

Walsall-born musician Goldie will also be performing with the band The Heritage Orchestra. Wilderness will also see US group The Flaming Lips performing their album The Soft Bulletin in full.

Plant, who will be 68 this year, and his band are on tour in the United States next month and the festival performance will be the only UK show this year.

He said: "In recent times The Space Shifters and I have found a natural home for our music in beautiful places that often carry their own unique resonance, I know the Wilderness Festival is one of those places."

In Dudley, 52 CCTV cameras cost the council £510,000 – this figure went down from £848,455 being spent on 127 cameras. Walsall forked out £1.4m on just 90, which went down around £480,000 and 40 cameras. Birmingham City Council was previously the highest spender but has now cut back by 60 per cent to £5,598,168 since 2012, when it spent £14.2m.

A previous study found that between 2007 and 2011, town halls spent a total of £515m – which is the equivalent of £128m a year – and controlled at least 51,600 CCTV cameras.

Last year there were warnings that police could find it more difficult to detect crime if councils switch off cameras in order to cut costs.

Big Brother Watch chief executive Renate Samson said: "Whilst the findings of this report appear encouraging, the reduction in spending may be nothing more than a lull before the storm of more intrusive, biometric or 3D cameras appearing on our streets."

Simon Blackburn, of the Local Government Association, said: "Where it is cost effective and has an impact, councils continue to invest in and review their public-space CCTV operations."

## Oar-some achievement for rowers



We did it – Lee Felton, left, from Dudley, and Sean Lannon celebrate rowing across the Atlantic Ocean

A PAIR of courageous oarsmen have completed one of the world's toughest challenges by rowing across the Atlantic Ocean.

Biology teacher Lee Felton, 30, from Dudley, crossed the finish line of the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge with his friend software engineer Sean Lannon, 31, from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, finishing 19th overall in the race.

The team, called Square One Atlantic, took on the arduous challenge to raise money for charities Sport for

Freedom and Rape Crisis England and Wales. It took the intrepid duo 65 days, 13 hours and 20 minutes, before crossing the finish on February 24.

Starting on December 14, they crossed the Atlantic from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to the Caribbean island of Antigua, rowing more than 3,000 miles.

Following their arrival at Antigua, Mr Felton wrote on his Facebook page: "We did it! Just got into bed on dry land after 65 days at sea."

The team rowed in shifts of two

hours on and two hours off, with the fleet of racers facing the first major tropical storm in January since 1978.

The exhausted crews suffered from sleep deprivation, seasickness and excruciating body sores. pace on board the boat was extremely limited and there were no bathroom facilities.

Square One Atlantic originally signed up to the race as a four, however, two of the rowers dropped out, making the challenge even greater for the determined pair of Sean and Lee.

They hope to have raised £30,000.

## HART tests for paramedic candidates

MORE than 30 paramedics were vying for a place on the latest training course to become a member of the Hazardous Area Response Team (HART).

HART teams provide paramedic care within a hazardous environment that would otherwise be beyond the reach of NHS care.

Types of incidents they could be called upon include working at height using ropes, floods, infectious disease and at firearms incidents.

Staff aiming to be selected had to go through several tests in an exercise at Himley Hall last week, which included a two-mile run, swimming 20 metres in a dry suit, helmet and gloves, a detailed clinical assessment and working as part of a team.

### Fit

HART manager James Price said: "The staff who put themselves forward were, first and foremost, excellent paramedics.

"To get through this initial round of selection they also needed to be fit, determined, up for working in a team, supportive and not afraid to show leadership.

"Overall, we were delighted by the quality of staff and it will not be easy to pick the successful candidates"

Successful candidates get three months of intensive training.

## Earth and Air inspire poetry for museum

AN annual poetry competition run by the Black Country Living Museum has opened for entries. This year's theme is on 'Earth and Air', inspired by historical events in our region.

The competition is open to adults aged 18 plus and poetry in any style. The first prize is £100, a family ticket to the museum and publication on the museum website, and there are other prizes. The closing date for entries is July 29 at 5pm. Visit [www.bclm.co.uk](http://www.bclm.co.uk)

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# Charity shop volunteer Hazel calls it a day at 88



Hazel's farewell at Compton Hospice Dudley Shop (from left) Jackie Haynes, Mereille Bills, Hazel Dunn and Isobel Nock

**COMPTON Hospice volunteer Hazel Dunn has decided it's time to retire – at the age of 88!**

Hazel, who has been part of the Dudley team since the New Street shop opened in 1988, said: "I've loved being involved and really enjoyed watching the charity grow over the years."

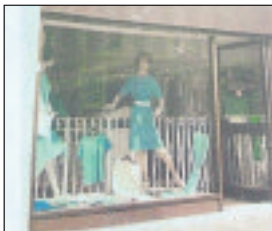
"When I first started I volunteered three days a week but gradually cut back to just one morning when I dressed the window."

"I've seen so many fashions come and go in all that time and it used to

make me laugh when the minute I'd finished dressing the window folks would come in and buy everything so I had to start all over again!"

Managers, fellow volunteers and customers marked Hazel's farewell after 28 years' service by presenting flowers and gifts – including a packet of her favourite pork scratchings!

Hazel, of Brierley Hill, said: "I was really touched with all the beautiful presents and messages. The pork scratchings are a real weakness of mine and I always used to nip out to the nearby butchers for a packet to share with the staff."



A window display at the shop in 1988

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## **MEN - BE AWARE !**

Prostate cancer is now the most common cancer to affect men in this country. 41,000 new cases are diagnosed each year - approximately 160 every working day. 10,000 men are dying of this disease each year - i.e. on average one every hour or the equivalent of a Jumbo Jet full of men crashing every ten days. It becomes more common with increasing age (it is unusual in men under 45 years) and is more common when there is a family history of prostate cancer and in men of Afro-Caribbean origin.

### **Killer**

Many men are unaware of this potential killer and think that increasing urinary symptoms are part of getting older but by the time prostate cancer starts to produce symptoms it can be too late to offer a cure. The earliest symptom of curable prostate cancer is to have no symptoms at all and so how can this disease be found at such an early and treatable stage?

Unfortunately there is no perfect clinical test yet available to diagnose prostate cancer but a simple blood test (Prostate Specific Antigen - P.S.A.) can act as an indicator of a prostate problem. An abnormal test can occur as a result of benign enlargement of the prostate or infection within the prostate or bladder. It is also possible to have a "normal" P.S.A. level and still have potentially serious disease within the prostate gland. However, a P.S.A. blood test can also act as an indicator of early curable prostate cancer.

### **Free blood test**

The Worcestershire Prostate Awareness Group is a small charity run by volunteers with the help of a Consultant Urologist and receives sponsorship from local businesses and companies. The charity visits venues in Worcestershire and surrounding areas (Stourbridge) offering men a free blood test which will measure the level of P.S.A. The retired Consultant Urologist, Mr D.C.Baxter-Smith, is present at each event to talk confidentially to any man who wishes to. Further details can be obtained from 07817 - 083492.

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# Drink-drive crusade cop is sacked after road ban

A SHAMED West Midlands Police officer from Sedgley, who once helped lead the force's crackdown on drink-driving, has been sacked – after being convicted of the offence himself.

Pc Chris Blount, of Rowan Road, was stopped on November 6 at 2.30am on the Black Country Route after patrolling officers spotted him 'struggling to control' his Vauxhall Mokka.

Pc Blount, who was a member of the collision investigation unit, was seen standing by the car apparently looking at damage. The officers looked back moments later and saw the car travelling slowly.

## Slurred

After seeing the driver was struggling to control the car, the officers pulled Pc Blount over, recognising him as a colleague. His speech was slurred and he was unsteady on his feet – and officers could also smell alcohol.

In January, he admitted one count of drink-driving. He is said to have given a reading of 101mg per 100ml in a breathalyser – nearly three times the limit of 30mg per 100ml of breath.

City magistrates fined him £1,425 and disqualified him from driving for two years for the offence.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Gina Lycett said: "Following a misconduct hearing held on February 24, Pc Chris Blount was dismissed from the force for discreditable conduct without notice."

Pc Blount was regularly the face of the police crackdown on drink-drivers in the West Midlands over recent years.

In the 2006 festive period, he said: "Our message is drink drive today – get banned tomorrow."



Pc Chris Blount was pulled over by officers and found to be over the limit

## Homes move for office block

A LANDMARK office block in Dudley town centre which has been empty for years will be given a new lease of life under plans to convert it into homes.

Falcon House, in The Minories, in the town centre has been left abandoned since the owner opted to occupy a different site. But fresh plans have now emerged to convert the 1960s office block into accommodation.

Flats will be created at the building but further details surrounding the proposals have yet to be revealed.

Initial plans requesting a change of use have been lodged with Dudley Council.

Falcon House overlooks public car parks off Flood Street. Its prominent town centre location would likely make it a sought-after address.

The site had previously been earmarked for a huge £50 million regeneration plan featuring a supermarket, restaurants, shops and houses, but developers eventually chose Cavendish House as their preferred option.

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## Mark dives in for Royal Navy talk

Ladies Social Circle

THE Kingswinford Ladies Social Circle met at The Royal British Legion on February 4 for the first meeting of 2016.

Chairman Sheila Evans reported on three ladies who had had joint replacements, but said that treasurer Audrey Phipps – a founder member when it was The Women's Electrical Association – is extremely poorly.

A letter was read out from Jean Hadley thanking the ladies for the lovely blankets presented to her for the Fistular Hospital at Addis Ababa. Another letter was read out from the chairman of The Royal British Legion thanking the club for its donation following a burglary.

The speaker Mark Newbold how he was bored with maths and physics at school so in 1978 joined the Navy. He trained as a diver and got a job on the Royal Yacht Britannia. As a member of the crew football team they played Saudi Arabia.

The crew captain gave the traditional pennant but received nothing in return. However after the match the defeated crew team each received a solid gold Rolex watch.

With five months to go he decided to end his naval career sailing round the Mediterranean on HMS Coventry. However, it was deployed to the Falklands and was hit during the conflict, 19 men lost their lives and Mark was injured.

He survived and returned to England to marry.

He divides his fee between three charities, one being Holidays For Heroes.

## Craft group raises cancer cash



Sedgley Evening TG's craft group presented Dudley Cancer Research shop manager Reah Robinson with a cheque for £500 from funds made on their open day

## Gwen's celebrating 50 years of service

THE February meeting was well attended and chairman Jean Latham welcomed two visitors, namely Pat Price and Maureen Mansell to join the members.

She proceeded by reading the list of apologies, and then presented Gwen Hill with a certificate for 50 years service, while expressing everyone's wishes that Gwen had fully recovered from recent illness.

The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting which were duly signed and passed and the treasurer asserted that the finances were in a healthy state.

Federation representative

### Wollaston E TWG

Hazel Needham then gave a précis account of the last meeting.

The subsection reports followed and March 9 is the date for the next 'amble', while payment of £8 is needed by March 8 for the skittles evening.

Speaker for the evening, Rosemary Prosser, gave a very interesting and amusing account of her life in the police force.

She finished with a warning of the diseases which bites from ticks can cause, such as Lyme disease. These ticks can be found in wood-

lands, moorlands, parks and even gardens throughout the UK.

Rosemary could not emphasise enough, the misery that these small arachnids may cause.

Raffle prizes went to Hazel Butt and Marueen Mansell, while the competition winner was Carol Longmore, with Megan Baxter second.

The next meeting incorporates the Annual General Meeting. It will be held at 7.30pm on March 8.

There will be no competition on this occasion.



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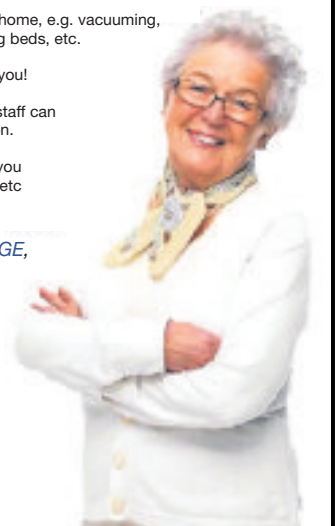
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Cherry Kitchen Makeovers' ethos is based on its promise to customers that "Our doors are fitted to your original kitchen carcass with maximum speed and minimum hassle and this solution normally costs approximately half the price of a full replacement kitchen".

The idea of the designer cosmetic makeovers has grown dramatically since the popularity of TV shows like Changing Rooms, but Cherry Kitchen Makeovers offers much more than merely a door replacement service. "Everything is made to measure to our clients exact specifications," said MD Rob Hollick. "We work with our customers from the initial enquiry through to the end result – a complete transformation".

Matching panels, made to measure cornices, pelmets and fascias are all available to provide the finishing touches, while accessories including wine racks and glass cabinets can be made to match existing furnishings. Plus, everything comes with a comprehensive two year guarantee.

Cherry Kitchens also offer an exclusive range of made-to-measure glass splash backs plus the latest range of Samsung Quartz work surfaces and upstands. If you are looking for in-

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Based in Stourbridge just off the ring road, next to Aldi, the Cherry Kitchen showroom is open seven days a week (Sat/Sun 10am till

4pm) and parking is free. A free no obligation quotation service is available for you to discuss your design options and choose from an almost endless array of colour options and finishes in the comfort of your home.

Robert said: "Our experienced and professional surveyors will take measurements and assess exactly what is required. Obviously the condition of existing cabinets is checked, and any that need replacing can be changed and new cabinets added to expand the existing design."

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door change to a complete makeover, and all rubbish is taken away by the company. If you want to see what their customers think, visit Yell.com and check out the verified five star reviews.

You shouldn't gamble on a company you don't know and Cherry Kitchen Makeovers' customers have total peace of mind, knowing that their deposit and guarantee is fully protected by the Consumer Protection Association. Cherry Kitchens Makeovers is a preferred trader within their organisation and has been a member for many years.

With so many designs and colours, and an inclusive price range, The Cherry Kitchen Makeover option really does provide something for everyone and viewing of their new showroom is a must.

For more information or a free colour 36 page brochure call 01384 395799 or visit their website [www.cherry-kitchens.co.uk](http://www.cherry-kitchens.co.uk)



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# Passionate couple delight romantics

## BALLET REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

Romeo and Juliet, Birmingham Hippodrome  
**THE** passionate pairing of the waif-like Jenna Roberts and powerful Iain Mackay was at the centre of this revival of Kenneth MacMillan's 50-year-old ballet – part of Birmingham Royal Ballet's 2016 Shakespeare season.

Miss Roberts' slight frame belies a steely strength and she used every ounce of it.

Her Juliet leapt into the strong arms of Mackay as Romeo. He lifted her aloft with gravity-defying dexterity, as Romeo in his ardour could clearly not keep his hands off his new love.

The Australian principal ballerina was spellbinding, drifting ghost-like en pointe to her inevitable doom.

Their balcony scene, with the couple confirming their love with an impassioned pas de deux in the Capulets' garden, was outstanding.

Mackay was almost, but not quite, eclipsed by Tyrone Singleton's charismatic Tybalt. As the leading young Montague and Capulet clashed – their sword-fighting in sync with Prokofiev's stirring music – there was a dynamic Errol Flynn feel to the action.

Comic relief came from Marion Tate (the company's assistant director) as a busybody Nurse, as expressive with her eyes as her feet, and all-energy Celine Gittens as a dancing floozy.

No one does haughty better than Samara Downs, who as Lady Capulet also brilliantly expressed her grief at Tybalt's death.

Another highlight was the carnival scene in which the weirdly-clad mandolin dancers (think slimline Wook-lee), led by Tzu-Chao Chou, were thrilling.



Passionate pair – Iain Mackay and Jenna Roberts as Romeo and Juliet

The renaissance Italy costumes, the late Paul Andrews' sumptuous sets and Royal Ballet Sinfonia's gorgeous rendering of Prokofiev's score all added to the epic quality of this production.

The ballet lacks a final grand pas de deux due to the nature of the story, with the two star-crossed lovers dieing moments apart. But that makes Romeo's final dance, clinging to an apparently lifeless Juliet as she droops like a rag doll, all the more heart-breaking.

The curtain-calls for Iain Mackay and Jenna Roberts were well deserved after a performance that will have delighted all romantics.

Birmingham Royal Ballet's Shakespeare season continues at the Hippodrome in June with 'The Taming of the Shrew' by John Cranko; and a triple bill, David Bintley's 'The Shakespeare Suite', 'The Moor's Pavane' (Jose Limon's work based on Othello) and, a new work by Jessica Lang, 'Wink'.

# Now Josef doesn't need Diamonds

## ALBUM REVIEWS

by Leon Burakowski

**A COVER** version first got London-based Australian singer-songwriter Josef Salvat noticed, when his take on Rihanna's Diamonds was used to promote Sony's latest HDTV.

But he emerges as a highly promising artist in his own right on his debut album **Night Swim**. Salvat's honeyed vocals are combined with lush and soulful electronic pop. His songs have lyrics that suggest he has probably had his heart broken.

Highlights include the euphoric Paradise, Every Night with its sleepy nocturnal atmosphere and the romantic A Better Word. The slick and addictive Open Season has already been a chart-topper in France while the track to really launch Salvat here could be the potent Shoot & Run.

Salvat sounds like a major new talent with a wide appeal and local music fans can see what the 28-year-old is like in concert when he has a gig at Birmingham's O2 Academy 3 venue on Friday, March 11.

The third solo album from **Steve Mason** is low-key, laid-back and very likeable with its blend of singer-songwriter acoustic guitar and gentle electronics with some nice touches, such as dub reggae style melodica. Mason's voice is like audio balm for the brain.

**Meet The Humans** occasionally hints at the Scottish songsmith's past, as lead singer with trip hop outfit The Beta Band from 1996 to 2004. But actually it sounds much more like another band, the melancholy mature rock of Elbow. Maybe that's no surprise as Elbow's keyboardist and producer Craig



Meet The Humans – best solo album yet from Beta Band man Steve Mason

Potter recorded the album at Salford's Blueprint Studios.

Highlights include the dreamy Through My Window, the anthemic Like Water and the album's lead track, folk-pop gem Planet Sizes.

**The Feeling** are in danger of giving 'soft rock' a good name with their accomplished fifth album **The Feeling**, the first named simply after the band. Maybe that indicates it's the album the Fill My Little World outfit are happiest with.

Starting strongly with Wicked Heart, The Feeling really hits its stride with new single Spiralling. Real Deal and Repeat To Fade showcase the vocal of Dan Gillespie Sells and have Muse-like grandeur, and Non-Stop American has hints of Young Americans era Bowie.



Josef Salvat has made a highly promising debut with his album Night Swim

The pounding Young Things has Gillespie Sells adopting the viewpoint of a grumpy senior with its wry lyric, whilst Shadow Boxer and What's The Secret provide further highlights.

The Feeling will be in concert at the O2 Academy 2 venue in Birmingham on Friday, March 11.

Sony Music have re-released **Off The Wall**, the 20-year-old **Michael Jackson's** classic 1979 album, bundled with a new documentary, Michael Jackson's Journey From Motown to Off The Wall (DVD or Blu-Ray) directed by Spike Lee. Off The Wall found Jackson at the peak of his powers on such disco-funk numbers as Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough, Rock With You and Workin' Day And Night, before Thriller took him to insane levels of fame.



# How Green Shoots £1m is real Plus for business

MORE than £1 million has been handed out to businesses creating 123 jobs thanks to grants from the Express & Star.

Nineteen companies have benefited from the Green Shoots Plus scheme run in conjunction with the University of Wolverhampton.

A further £1.2m is in the process of being agreed and £2m is still up for grabs. So far 42 jobs have been protected, supporting £3.34m of private sector investment.

MPs have heralded the scheme and urged more small to medium-sized companies to submit bids.

Wolverhampton North East MP Emma Reynolds said: "I would encourage all small and medium-sized businesses to apply for this pot of money so they can invest in their industries and create new jobs."

## Radical

"The fund has already been successful in creating more than 100 jobs and is a shot in the arm for the local economy."

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson said: "What is so great about this scheme is that it is a partnership between Britain's biggest-selling regional newspaper the Express & Star and an academic institution delivering on the ground and making a difference for lots of people."

"This is a radical approach to handing out government grants and it must be commended because it is working so well and improving the local economy."

Companies to benefit include Food Trade International in Netherton who were awarded a grant of £150,000 which will create around 13 new jobs and protect a further three by purchasing new machinery and equipment the amount of work it can handle.



With the cheque, from left, Green Shoots fund board chairman professor Ian Oakes, Express and Star editor Keith Harrison, and the University's Business Solutions Centre manager Gary Dimmock, with board members

Express & Star editor Keith Harrison said: "It is great to see Green Shoots Plus making a real difference for our businesses here in the Black Country and Staffordshire and beyond."

"Small and medium-sized businesses are the backbone of the economy and many of them are in need of a helping hand to reach their full potential, create new jobs, and make a more prosperous society."

Deputy Vice Chancellor Professor Ian Oakes said: "We are delighted to act as the conduit to allocate this government funding into the region for small companies to become competitive and grow and create jobs."

Applicants can seek a grant worth between £10,000 and £150,000 to cover up to 30 per cent of the costs of their plans for job creation and expansion.

The project, administered by the University of Wolverhampton and overseen by a panel of expert business leaders, uses money from the Government's Regional Growth Fund.

Green Shoots Plus aims to create and safeguard more than 370 jobs at small and medium sized enterprises across the Black Country, Stafford, South Staffordshire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, and Herefordshire.

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Auster Alpha in front of the Maintenance Hangar at Pendeford



Wolverhampton Aero Club Piper Cherokee at Deauville



John Rushton under an Auster before departure in 1966 'looking for a shilling'



Peter Dunham, John Rushton, Doug Parsons, Colin Johnson in front of the Cherokee



M Carter, D Wombwell, J Rushton, T Docherty who were in Deauville in 1965

# When aero rally was also a top-flight feast

IN 1965 and 1966 Wolverhampton Aero Club, based at Wolverhampton Airport Pendeford, took part in the Royal Aero Club Rally to Deauville, Normandy.

Club members in assorted aircraft flew over and joined light aircraft from all over Great Britain, in a tradition which began in the 1930s.

For less than £10 expenses members could enjoy a weekend at the Royal Deauville Hotel at the invitation of the owner M. Lucienne Barriere.

## Varied

The Royal Aero Club Deauville Rally usually involved more than 100 light aircraft and those taking part from Pendeford varied from wartime Tiger Moth biplanes, to thoroughly modern Piper Cherokee four seaters.

The rally was always in the heart of the summer, 1966 being on the weekend of June 4-5, so once in Normandy visitors took full advantage of the local golf courses, tennis courts, horse riding and beaches.

Meals in the Restaurant des Ambassadeurs in the hotel were sumptuous. The five-course

## MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

dinner in 1966 was Melon de Provence, Cream of Tomato soup, Supreme de Turbot Cambaceres, Cotelettes de Veau Pojarski and Peches Melba, followed by toasts to the Queen and the President of France, then Charles de Gaulle.

## Rare

In the days when package holidays to the Continent were uncommon, hiring an aircraft and popping over for a weekend at a fine resort in France was a rare experience, yet the annual Deauville Rallies were always oversubscribed.

Taking off in the shadow of Courtauld's tall 'Three Sisters' chimney stacks, and flying round the smoke of the Black Country and Birmingham, to land in sunny Normandy only three hours later was a rare treat.

And those on the 1966 rally probably didn't realise then just how rare it was then, with the closure of Pendeford Airport only five years away.



J Rushton, Miss C Groom, Bob Offwood, M Carter being shown the route by A S Harper in front of his Tiger Moth

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Gillian McDermott with Colour Sgt Greg Hedges and Watchman V



Treasurer Keith Jackson with Christie and a bust from the displays



Councillor Peter Hughes, who also a committee member



Committee members at the opening of the museum



Memorabilia on show at the Bull Terrier Heritage Centre in Wednesbury

# Staffie centre reopens

ONE of the Black Country's favourite dog breeds, the Staffordshire Bull Terrier is being celebrated with the reopening of a museum at a new location.

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Heritage Centre first opened in 2005 at Wednesbury's Old Post Office with the aim of disproving the breed's stereotype as ferocious and dangerous.

But having been asked to leave the premises two years ago the charity behind the centre were forced to move the exhibits into storage.

Bosses searched desperately for a new home

and last year struck a deal to lease a former health centre in Albert Street, Wednesbury.

After renovating the building so it complied with the required standards to welcome visitors, the exhibition has now re-opened.

Gillian McDermott, member of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Exhibition Group, said: "It is a big relief that we are out of storage and again able to display our wonderful exhibits."

"The project is all about changing perceptions of the Staffordshire Bull Terrier."

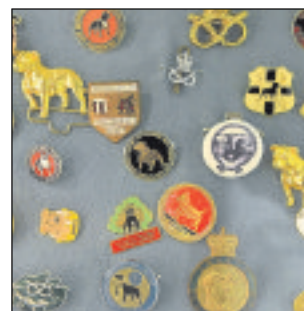
"They are a real family dog. It is only when they are put in the wrong hands there is problems." The exhibition contains a variety of

memorabilia collected from all over the world including books from Australia and badges from the Czech Republic.

There is also a prized collection of 145 copies of 'The Stafford' magazine dating back to the 1940s.

The exhibition will open most Saturdays and at other times by appointment. The exhibition group will also be showing at Crufts in March.

Gillian, who has six Staffordshire Bull Terriers of her own, said: "If we can get one convert who didn't like Staffordshire Bull Terriers before and we can get them to see them differently, than we will have done our job."



Badges on display in the Staffordshire Bull Terrier Heritage Centre

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# This Rockets into a league of its own

## VIDEO GAMES

by Leon Burakowski

**THE arrival of Rocket League for digital download on Xbox One at last lets owners of Microsoft's console join in the fun that 11 million PlayStation 4 and PC gamers are having with the sensational football-racer hybrid.**

Like some kind of Tron-meets-Tron Gear dream, the neon lit world of Rocket League puts you in charge of a sports car that you use to knock a giant football into the back of the net.

But that's only the bare bones. Your souped-up vehicle can jump and pick up super-speed boosts, whilst the giant ball is also a giant bomb which explodes with considerable force when you get it between the posts.

### Frenetic

And that job is not as easy as it first looks, as you have to master your vehicle, get to grips with the physics of this virtual arena and in online form take on some skilled opponents in frenetic action.

Independent game developer and publisher Psyonix have created an addictive hit with Rocket League, a 'must have' for those who like their arcade e-sports fast and furious.

Plus, from March 8, the Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice Car Park add-on will enable players to put themselves in control of the new Batmobile from the forthcoming movie.

The all-action universe of Naruto Shippuden is brought up to date with **Naruto Shippuden: Ultimate Ninja Storm 4**, available for Xbox One, PlayStation 4 and PC.

Experience the Fourth Great Sh-



Off me head-lamp son... revved up Rocket League action comes to Xbox One

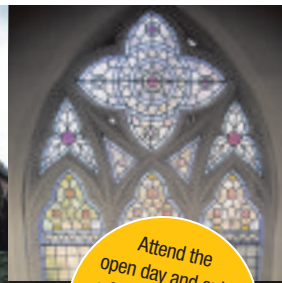
inobi War like never before with immersive battles that give players the chance to become their favourite characters with more than 100 to choose.

The one-on-one multiplayer modes return for offline and online play. Challenge players from across the world or across the couch in mind-bending, brawn-busting battles to determine the ultimate ninja.

The new leader change system means players can instantly swap their main character with their two assist characters, allowing for a higher level of strategy. Quick matches, tournaments and leagues are available for some of the most fast-paced arcade action with those weird twists you only get with the Japanese developers.

Italian developers Milestone's long-awaited **Sebastian Loeb Rally Evo** does not deliver the instant thrills of the DiRT franchise but, if you stick with it, the rally racing game associated with the nine times world champion is a treat for serious rally fans.

There is the usual high level of customisation that players have come to expect from such games, plus superbly realised vehicles (more than 50 to choose from) and stages with over 300 kilometres to rev around, from Monte Carlo to Mexico, Finland to Wales. You can also experience rallycross in LA, take on the challenge of Pike's Peak or simply experience some of the French rally star's career highlights. It's available for Xbox One and PS4.



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Work to restore the chapels and immediate landscaped areas began last year. The east chapel has been restored as a ceremony room – the Wollescote Suite – for civil marriages, with a seating capacity of approximately 50 guests. The west chapel has been converted into office space and interview rooms for the purpose of registering births, deaths and marriages.

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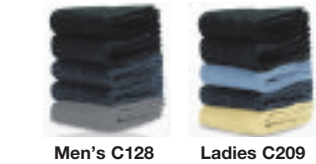


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## Look who's Poppins in

Interview – Page 23



### Thriller Live

See Page 23



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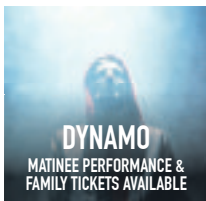


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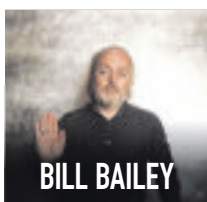
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## Hetty Feather



**Tuesday - March 12  
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## Foxes



**Tonight (Thursday), 7pm  
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Riding the wave of success that came from anthemic belter Better Love, Southampton-born Foxes – AKA Louisa Rose Allen – blazes a trail for pop music and fashion. Visit [o2institutebirmingham.co.uk](http://o2institutebirmingham.co.uk)

## Rudimental



**Monday, 7pm  
O2 Academy, B'ham**

Following the chart-topping success of second album We The Generation, the Hackney outfit famous for their hit collaborations visit as part of a nine-date UK tour. Visit [www.academymusicgroup.com](http://www.academymusicgroup.com)

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**Jamie Woon**

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**Sleeping With Sirens**

Sat at 6pm, £18.50  
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Call 0121 622 8250

**The Coral**

Thu at 7pm,  
The Institute, Digbeth,  
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**The Drifters**

Fri at 7.30pm, £26  
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**The Stones**

Fri at 7.30pm,  
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Cannock, WS11 1DE.  
Call 01543 578762

**ReGenesis: Genesis Tribute**

Mon at 8.30pm,  
The Robin 2 Hotel,  
Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
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**The Blockheads**

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**Theory Of A Deadman**

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**Matt Woosey**

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**Dan Reed Network**

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**Symphony Of A Thousand**

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**Celebration Of Music**

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**CBSO 2015-16 - Shostakovich's Fifteenth**

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**CBSO 2015-16 - Poulenc's Gloria**

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## THEATRE

**Horrible Histories: Groovy Greeks**

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Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
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**Horrible Histories: Incredible Invaders**

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## OTHER EVENTS

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**Barber Book Club: The Way To Paradise By Mario Vargas Llosa**

Tue at 2pm - 3pm,  
Barber Institute of Fine Arts,  
University of Birmingham,  
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Sun at 11am, Free  
mac, Cannon Hill Road,  
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Call 0121 446 3232

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Sat at 9am - 6pm, Sun at 9.30am - 5pm,  
The NEC Birmingham,  
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**The National Wedding Show**

Fri at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10am - 6pm, Sun at 10am - 5pm,  
The NEC Birmingham,  
B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

**Drum & Bass Awards 2016**

Sat - Sun at 9pm - 6am,  
Gatecrasher Birmingham,  
B15 1DA. Call 0121 633 1520

## CLUBBING

**The Burlesque Ball UK Tour**

Sat at 8.30pm,  
O2 Academy Birmingham,  
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Zizi a practically perfect Poppins

IT'S her dream job. Zizi Strallen grew up watching Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke star in the iconic 1964 movie version of *Mary Poppins*. It transported her to another world – and she didn't ever imagine she'd one day land that role.

"I watched the film and read the book. I became completely obsessed by it. And then when somebody like Cameron Mackintosh says 'do you want to do this?' you just go."

The spectacular travelling production will have a six-week run at Birmingham's Hippodrome from Wednesday (March 9), playing to almost 100,000 people. Zizi says it's as much fun for her as it is for the sell-out audiences.

"We are so well looked after here and the company is absolutely amazing. It's not just about the people on stage, it's also the people who help me fly every night."

"The work that goes into this production is absolutely immense. We change venues and think: 'How on earth are they going to fit all of this kit into this theatre?' But they do. It never fails to impress."

Zizi is an accomplished dancer and has enjoyed working with Matthew Bourne, who has brought numerous ballets to Birmingham.

## Sisters

Theatre is in her genes. Both her parents appeared in *Cats*, her aunt is Bonnie Langford and her two elder sisters are actresses Summer and Scarlett Strallen – Scarlett played *Mary Poppins* in London and on Broadway.

When Zizi isn't tripping the light fantastic or making magic as *Mary Poppins*, she writes her own scripts.

"It's a hobby, when I have time. I write comedy sketches. Once I've done everything I can do on stage, I would love to write professionally."

"I kind of started it because I was a big eavesdropper when I was out having coffee in London. I write scripts that include lots of the funny stuff that I've overheard. People don't realise I'm listening and writing it all down."

She says *Mary Poppins* has lots of laugh-out-loud lines. "I really enjoyed finding the comedy and the wit in the script. Some of *Mary's* lines are so witty and cheeky."



Sister act – rising star Zizi Strallen is following her sibling Summer's steps as *Mary Poppins* on stage photo: Matt Crockett

# Cleo atcha in Thriller Live

THE touring version of West End hit *Thriller Live* is coming to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre for a six-day run from Monday.

The concert-style tribute to the genius of Michael Jackson has become a global phenomenon, taking 150 million dollars at the box office – half of that from its seven-year London run and UK tours.

Later this year the 2,901st performance of the show at the Lyric Theatre will see *Thriller Live* overtake *Evita* to become the 17th longest running West End musical.

Producer Paul Walden said: "This is proof positive that the music of Michael Jackson is still one of the hottest tickets on the planet. We are privileged to continue his musical legacy in *Thriller Live*, and to have taken it to theatres, concert halls and arenas in 32 countries around the world."

"But we are certainly not resting on our laurels – this brand new version of the show has four new songs, a new opening, new production elements including new video, new costumes and special effects."

The arrival of the show in Brum will also mark a homecoming for one of its current stars, Birmingham-born Cleo Higgins. She is the former lead singer of sibling pop trio Cleopatra, who enjoyed a hit with Cleopatra's Theme (from debut album *Comin' Atcha!*) alongside her sisters Yonah and Zainam in 1998.

Cleo reached the semi-finals of *The Voice UK* in 2013, choosing Will.i.am as coach after all four turned in the blind audition. Now she celebrates the music of Michael Jackson.



## It's Blockheads and touring Turin Brakes

KEY gigs include a concert by the late Ian Dury's band *The Blockheads*, now fronted by Derek 'The Draw' Hussey, at Bilton's Robin 2 venue tomorrow (Fri).

The line up includes Chaz Jankel, Norman Watt-Roy and Mick Gallagher, so expect the distinctive blend of music hall and funk with hits such as *Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick*. Support from Tipton's *The Tramways*.

Turin Brakes, who recently released their seventh studio album, *Lost Property*, are in concert at Birmingham's Glee Club, at Birmingham's Arcadian Centre, on Tuesday. Funky US rock band Dan Reed Network play the Robin 2 on Wednesday.

## Painful memories as son plays his father

ACTOR Matthew Zajac plays his own father in *The Tailor Of Inverness*, which explores the elderly Pole's memories of his horrific experiences during the Second World War, that led him to leave Poland for Scotland.

Written by Zajac, this story has added poignancy given the current refugee crisis. It is presented at Birmingham Repertory Theatre venue The Door, in the Centenary Square complex, from tonight (Thu) to Saturday.

London Classic Theatre stage Harold Pinter's *The Birthday Party* at Wolverhampton University's Arena Theatre, in Wulfruna Street, tomorrow and Saturday.

## X Factor winner to star in Grand panto

TICKETS are already on sale for this year's pantomime at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, Aladdin, with star singer Joe McEllderry in the title role.

The X Factor winner will be joined by TV presenter, former *Strictly* and *Emmerdale* star Lisa Riley as the Slave of the Ring in the show at the Lichfield Street theatre from December 10 to January 22.

Also joining the panto line up is Black Country comedy character Doreen, as the laziest Emmerdale that China has ever seen. Work shy Doreen Tipton, played by actress Gill Jordan, became an internet sensation and has featured in her own movie.

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## CHOICE



Lee Mead

## Casualty

(BBC1, 9pm)

Part two of two. In the aftermath of the incident that saw agency nurse Diana receive a shock from a defibrillator, Lofty must decide how to explain what occurred in the Emergency Department's official statement. Dylan tells him clarify it was an accident, but Lofty must decide whether he himself should carry the burden. Meanwhile, Cal falls while looking after Emilie, and the pair are admitted to the ED, forcing Ethan to face his birth-mother for the first time. When it becomes clear that Emilie has pneumonia, and doesn't have long to live, Ethan and Cal must make a life-changing decision together. Medical drama, starring Lee Mead.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast.** **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Cycling. **2.00** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v Japan. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** Dynamo: Magician Impossible. **5.50** BBC News.

**6.00 Regional Programme.**

**6.10 The Getaway Car.** Dermot O'Leary hosts as another five duos arrive in the South African countryside to put their nerves, driving and communication skills, and ultimately their relationships to the test. This time, sisters Jodie and Aimi take to the wheel of "Little Miss Daisy". Hazard Highway's flowery VW Golf, and "rock gods in the making" Binny and Neil from Brighton also take to the track. Ex-HGV driver Dave and his partner Paula arrive from the Outer Hebrides, and lifelong pals Pete and Richard from South Yorkshire put their friendship to the test on the course. Plus, London-based Thai kickboxing duo Talibah and Ami begin to wonder whether they have made the right choice as Talibah, who only passed her driving test just over a year ago, settles into the driver's seat.

**7.00 The Voice UK.** The would-be stars enter the second and final round of the Battle phase, in which the remaining artists from each team must take to the stage to secure their place in the Knockouts. As Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson seek to reduce the numbers in their respective groups down to eight singers each, the contestants must prepare themselves for another flurry of vocal show-downs: with their own superstar coaches deciding which of them will be bowing out of the competition early.

**9.00 Casualty.** Part two of two. Lofty must make a statement about the defibrillator incident, and Ethan faces his birth-mother for the first time when she and Cal are admitted to the ED.

**9.50 The National Lottery Live.** Gaby Roslin presents.

**10.00 BBC News;** Weather.

**10.20 Match of the Day.**

**11.50 Film: The Recruit.** (2003)

**1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.05 Film:** After Tonight. (1933) **7.15 Film:** The Quatermass Xperiment. (1955) **8.35 Film:** Dean Spanley. (2008) **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** Rick Stein's India. (R) **1.00** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **1.30** Alfred Hitchcock: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.05 Film:** Notorious. (1946) Alfred Hitchcock's thriller, starring Cary Grant. **3.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.30** Live Davis Cup Tennis. Great Britain v Japan. **5.30** Flog It! (R) **6.00** **Gardeners' World.** Horticultural ideas and advice. (R)

**6.30 Back in Time for the Weekend.** The Ashby-Hawkins family enters the 1990s, a decade where new technology starts to dominate their leisure time. Twelve year-old Seth finally gets his hands on a Game Boy and games console, while the arrival of the internet and a mobile phone marks the start of how many spend their spare time now. Steph and Rob try out line-dancing, and fitness star Mr Motivator puts them through their paces. Tommy Walsh and Linda Barker also turn up to help the family give the house and garden a 90s makeover. (R)

**7.30 Queen Victoria's Children.** The second episode focuses on the monarch's relationship with her daughters, revealing how she clung to and bullied the princesses, as well as arranging who they should marry. (R)

**8.30 Dad's Army.** Jones buys black-market pigeons from wheeler-dealer Walker – but is horrified to discover the birds were taken from Trafalgar Square. Comedy, starring Clive Dunn and James Beck. (R)

**9.00 Stag.** Johnson's stag party is besieged in the home of the sinister gamekeeper, until Christoph, a suspiciously helpful gate-crasher, arrives and offers to lead everyone to safety.

**10.00 Film: Dom Hemingway.** (2013) Premiere. A safe cracker released from prison goes to the South of France to collect a debt and reconnect with his daughter. Comedy crime drama, starring Jude Law and Emilia Clarke.

**11.30 Line of Duty.** The return of the crime thriller about a police anti-corruption unit. DI Lindsay Denton comes under suspicion after a police convoy is ambushed. (R)

**12.30 Line of Duty.** (R) **1.30 Film:** Lebanon. (2009) **2.55** This is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Bottom Knockout Street. **6.15** Bottom Knockout Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Signed Stories. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Jessie. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25** Murder. She Wrote. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.15** ITV News; Weather. **12.24** Regional Programme. **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.30** Tipping Point. (R) **3.35** Film: The Spy Who Loved Me. (1977) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.

**6.00 Regional Programme;** Weather.

**6.10 ITV News;** Weather.

**6.30 New You've Been Framed!** More comical mishaps.

**7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** Hollywood actress Kate Hudson joins the entertainer duo as this week's Guest Announcer, and Bear Grylls receives the surprise of his life when Ant and Dec go Undercover – in total darkness. Stephen Mulhern presides over Ant vs Dec, in which the pair must sing for their lives, and the plot thickens in the second instalment of Who Shot Simon Cowell?, with David Walliams becoming the latest suspect. Plus, Brit Award-winning singer Jess Glynne takes part in the End of the Show Show, and another lucky audience member is selected to play Win the Ads.

**8.30 Take Me Out.** A musical theatre performer from Mansfield, a City trader, a Blackpool car salesman and an account executive from Milton Keynes enter the "love lift". Last in the series.

**10.00 The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host is joined in the studio by Richard Gere, Roisin Conaty, Jack Black and Motown founder Berry Gordy, who introduces a performance by the cast of Motown the Musical.

**11.00 ITV News;** Weather.

**11.20 Film: Never Say Never Again.** (1983) Action adventure, with Sean Connery.

**1.35** Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.15** The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Freeride World Tour. **7.30** The Grid. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.40** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Superhumans Show. **11.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Doncaster and Epsom. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

**6.05 Come Dine with Me.** It is the final night in Manchester and glamorous gossip Maria is serving her twist on Asian cuisine, which manages to impress daddy's girl Sasha. (R)

**6.35 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales travel along the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Union Canal in a coast-to-coast adventure from Edinburgh to Glasgow, taking in Scotland's highest aqueduct and longest canal tunnel, as well as some striking examples of 21st-century engineering and monumental sculptures. Last in the series. (R)

**8.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages.** The actress travels through the South Downs and the Weald of Sussex and Kent, reliving the Cuckfield Donkey Races and delving into the life of Rudyard Kipling. Last in the series.

**9.00 Film: The Bourne Legacy.** (2012) The leaders of a secret government agency plan to eliminate several agents as part of a cover-up when they face having their dark secrets exposed. One of the assassins targeted is able to evade his fate and go on the run – but his escape is threatened by his dependence on drugs to boost his physical and mental capabilities. Spy thriller sequel, with Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz and Edward Norton.

**11.40 Film: Seven Psychopaths.** (2012) A writer turns to two crooks for advice about a script, but ends up in danger when they kidnap a gangster's dog. Comedy thriller, with Colin Farrell and Sam Rockwell.

**1.40** Hollyoaks. (R) **3.50** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **4.45** Location, Location, Location. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **8.55** The Fairly OddParents. **9.30** The Saturday Show Live. **11.30 Film:** Star Trek: The Motion Picture. (1979) **2.00** Criminally Funny: Caught in the Act. (R) **3.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **4.00** Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **5.00** Granmas Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R)

**6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.**

Documentary series giving an insight into the world of debt collection. Kevin Stokes and Brian O'Shaughnessy try to collect a debt from a technology company in Middlesex – and with the director nowhere to be seen, the office manager does everything she can to prove the business is no longer trading. Stewart McCracken and Elmor Victor face a heart-breaking house repossession in Merseyside, where two landlords are forced to evict a tenant recovering from a brain tumour which has cost him his job and income. (R)

**7.00 World War II in Colour.** The war in the Pacific in the spring of 1943, when America went on the offensive against Japan, launching a two-pronged attack to drive their forces back. (R)

**8.00 The Gadget Show.** Jon Bentley tests a product intended to replace both a laptop and tablet, while in the US, Yue Xu visits CES, the world's biggest technology exhibition. (R)

**8.55 5 News Weekend.**

**9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches, which include Burnley v Blackburn Rovers.

**10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of all the goals and talking points from League One and League Two, as well as a look at the latest league tables.

**10.30 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** A bikie gang member's mutilated body is found in a park, and Stabber fights to prove his partner's innocence when Benson is linked to the murder by DNA evidence. (R)

**11.20 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.** (R)

**12.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** I Want That Wedding! (R)

## DIGITAL

## BBC Four

**7.00** Human Planet **8.00** Survivors: Nature's Indestructible Creatures **9.00** Trapped **10.45** Doris Day: Virgin Territory **11.45** Sing's Musicals **12.45** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **1.45** Top of the Pops: 1981 **2.25** Top of the Pops: 1981 **2.45** Doris Day: Virgin Territory **3.45** Close

## ITV2

**11.15** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. **12.45** The Almost Impossible Gameshow **1.45** Catchphrase **2.25** Scorpion **3.20** Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **5.10** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.10** Film: Hulk (2003) **10.00** Take Me Out – The Gossip **11.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.50** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **1.20** Ibiza Weekender **2.10** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands **3.00** Teleshopping

## ITV3

**12.25** A Touch of Frost **2.30** Wycliffe **3.45** Jane Eyre **6.00** Midsummer Murders **10.00** A Touch of Frost **11.20** Blue Murder **1.40** Doctor in the House **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

## ITV4

**11.35** Pawn Stars **12.30** Live Darts: UK Open. Coverage of the second day at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **5.00** Storage Wars: Texas **6.00** Pawn Stars **7.00** Live Darts: UK Open. Further coverage of the second day at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **11.00** Film: The Hitcher (2007) **12.40** Hell on Wheels **1.35** Minder **2.30** Google Now **2.10** Virtually Famous **2.50** Tattoo Fixers **3.45** How I Met Your Mother **4.30** Revenge

## E4

**11.00** How I Met Your Mother **12.00** The Jump **1.00** The Goldbergs **3.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: The Inbetweeners Movie (2011) **11.00** Tattoo Fixers **12.00** Google Now **2.10** Virtually Famous **2.50** Tattoo Fixers **3.45** How I Met Your Mother **4.30** Revenge

## Film4

**11.00** Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs (2009) **1.00** Leap Year (2010) **3.05** True Grit (1969) **5.40** Avatar (2009) A soldier uses a genetically engineered body to help an alien tribe fight off a corrupt mining corporation. James Cameron's sci-fi adventure, with Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana. **9.00** Les Misérables (2012) A former prisoner pursued by a fanatical police inspector in post-revolutionary France is drawn into a political uprising. Musical, with Hugh Jackman and Russell Crowe. **12.05** Don't Be Afraid of the Dark (2010) **2.05** Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo (1999) **3.55** Close

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CHOICE



Tom Hollander

**Doctor Thorne (ITV, 9pm)**  
New series. Julian Fellowes' three-part adaptation of Anthony Trollope's historical novel, starring Tom Hollander as a doctor who is forced to tell his niece the secrets of her past when she is barred from attending her best friend's wedding. The truth threatens her own plans to marry the heir to a country estate, and the mother of her intended plots to push her son in the direction of an American heiress. Meanwhile, the doctor also advises a railway tycoon who is drinking himself into an early grave. With Alison Brie, Ian McShane and Rebecca Front.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 7.25 Match of the Day.** (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.** **10.00 The Big Questions.** **11.00 Regional Programme.** **12.15 BBC News: Weather.** **12.30 Regional Programme.** **1.00 Live Davis Cup Tennis.** Great Britain v Japan. **4.30 Escape to the Country.** (R) **5.00 Songs of Praise.** **5.35 Nature's Miracle Orphans.**  
**6.35 BBC News.**  
**6.50 Regional Programme.**  
**7.00 Countryfile.** Anita Rani and John Craven explore Northern Ireland. John visits Rathlin Island and finds out about its growing kelp industry, while Anita walks part of the Ulster Way and meets a farmer who hires out his animals for TV programmes. Adam Henson checks up on his farm's pregnant goats and cows, and Tom Henson investigates ways of improving safety for farm vets. Including Weather For The Week Ahead.  
**8.00 Call the Midwife.** Dr Turner is horrified to realise he may be partly to blame as the cause of the recent rise in birth deformities comes to light, and tries to prevent further cases. Sister Evangelina returns to work, but has clearly been affected badly by her stroke, and her health continues to deteriorate. A pregnant bride goes into labour during her wedding reception, while her mother is forced to come to terms with her grandchild being conceived out of wedlock. Last in the series.  
**9.00 The Night Manager.** Apostol throws a lavish party to celebrate his daughter's birthday – but when the guest of honour is found dead, he becomes vulnerable and Burr is able to gain leverage over him. Roper digs deeper into Pine's fictitious criminal past and offers him a job in his organisation – but Corky remains suspicious of the newcomer. When Pine is given permission to take Daniel into town, he and Burr have a chance to share intelligence and deal with a potential threat to their plans by persuading the troubled Apostol to turn on Corky.  
**10.00 BBC News.**  
**10.20 Regional Programme.**  
**10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Review of the latest Premier League action.  
**11.35 Live Women's Football.**  
**12.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.**  
**12.50 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.00 The A to Z of TV Gardening.** (R) **6.45 Great British Garden Revival.** (R) **7.45 Gardeners' World.** (R) **8.15 An Island Parish.** (R) **8.45 Countryfile.** (R) **9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** **11.15 The Best Dishes Ever.** (R) **11.45 The Best Dishes Ever.** (R) **12.15 MOTD2 Extra.**  
**1.00 Triathlon.** **2.00 Live Cycling.** Day five of the UCI Track World Championships.  
**6.00 Flog It!** Elizabeth Talbot and Mark Stacey pick out a German set of dolls' houses and a collection of Minton sporting tiles from the antiques and collectibles at Stapleford Park in Leicestershire. Meanwhile, Paul Martin explores nearby Kirby Hall to find out how the building was designed for Elizabeth I. (R)  
**7.00 Who's the Boss?** The boss of a Preston-based chocolate manufacturer gives his entire workforce the power to decide on who will become its new Business Development Manager. The three candidates competing for the job think it's him they need to impress. Instead, everyone in the company will secretly assess them in a series of workplace tasks designed to test the applicants in every corner of the company. But as this week-long recruitment experiment continues, an upstairs/downstairs split emerges between the sales team and two of the longest serving workers on the factory floor. (R)  
**8.00 Steve Backshall's Extreme Mountain Challenge.** Part one of two. The naturalist leads a team of rock climbers across Venezuela's tepuis – sheer-sided mountains surrounded by jungle – braving wildlife and rapids to reach them.  
**9.00 Let's Play Darts for Sport Relief 2016.** Gabby Logan hosts the semi-final of the contest in which big names from the world of darts join forces with celebrities in a knockout tournament held at the Lakeside, Frimley Green.  
**10.00 Thirteen.** New series. Drama about a woman who escapes and returns home after being held captive in a cellar for 13 years, while the police search for her kidnapper. Starring Julie Comar.  
**11.00 The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story.** (R)  
**11.40 Film: Shifty.** (2008)  
**1.05 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** (R) **2.00 Holy City.** (R) **3.00 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITY: Bottom Knockers Street.** **6.15 Bottom Knockers Street.** (R) **6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.50 Signed Stories: Share a Story.** (R) **6.55 Sooty.** (R) **7.05 Super 4.** (R) **7.15 Looped.** (R) **7.30 Scrambled!** Scrambled! **7.35 Scrambled!** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50 Scrambled!** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10 Scrambled!** Nerds & Monsters. **8.30 Scrambled!** Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05 Scrambled!** The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 Murder, She Wrote.** (R) **10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **11.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **12.30 ITV News: Weather.** **12.40 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R) **1.40 Judge Rinder.** (R) **2.45 Big Star's Little Star.** (R) **3.45 Off Their Rockers.** (R) **4.15 Film: Moonraker.** (1979) James Bond spy adventure, starring Roger Moore.  
**6.45 ITV News: Weather.**  
**7.00 Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands.** Rheda tries to discredit Beowulf's accusations as suspicion about her brother mounts, but is unprepared for the terrible truth that faces her both at home and in other lands.  
**8.00 The Story of Cats.** New series. Wildlife series comparing the behaviour of domestic felines to big cats in the wild. Lion expert Kevin Richardson offers an insight into feline communication. Plus, a look at the climbing skills of sabre-tooth wild cats that hunt in the jungles of South East Asia, and how Namibian caracals are able to jump over three metres and catch birds in flight.  
**9.00 Doctor Thorne.** New series. Julian Fellowes' adaptation of Anthony Trollope's novel, starring Tom Hollander as a doctor dealing with the secrets of his niece's past as she prepares to marry.  
**10.00 ITV News: Weather.**  
**10.20 Brits Behind Bars.** With thousands of UK citizens currently held in jails around the world, this documentary focuses on the moving cases of British overseas prisoners. (R)  
**11.15 Premiership Rugby Union.** Action from the 15th round of fixtures, including Newcastle Falcons v Worcester Warriors.  
**12.15 Jackpot247.** **3.00 ITV Nightscreen.** **5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 The King of Queens.** (R) **6.40 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.05 Frasier.** (R) **8.00 Frasier.** (R) **8.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **9.00 The Simpsons.** (R) **9.30 Sunday Brunch.** **12.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.00 Amazing Spaces: Floating Homes.** (R) **2.00 Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules.** (2011) Children's comedy sequel, starring Zachary Gordon. **4.00 Film: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York.** (1992) Comedy sequel, starring Macaulay Culkin.  
**6.15 Channel 4 News.**  
**6.30 The Secret Life of the Zoo.** Rothschild giraffe Orla is about to give birth to her second calf but is three weeks overdue. This episode captures the arrival of the giraffe family's youngest member and its introduction to the rest of the herd. Cameras also follow the Chester team as they attempt to save mountain chicken frogs from extinction, and there's a look at the secret world of three disruptive aardvarks. (R)  
**7.30 The Jump: The Final.** Davina McCall presents one last trip to the Austrian Alps for the grand final of the celebrity winter sports challenge. This year's series of The Jump has been infamous for a high rate of injuries among the competitors, making it even more uncertain than normal who the finalists will be. The contestants who have managed to make it this far will have to prove their worth on the slopes in one last winter sporting event to decide which of them will get to take home this year's Jump Cowbell Trophy. Last in the series.  
**9.00 Film: American Hustle.** (2013) Premiere. A conman is caught in the act by the FBI, but a maverick agent offers him the chance to escape prison by assisting in a sting operation. The hustler finds himself involved in a scheme to bring down the corrupt, Mafia-affiliated politician, only to find his own ex-wife plotting revenge. Crime drama set in the 1970s, starring Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence.  
**11.40 Film: An Officer and a Gentleman.** (1982) Romantic drama, starring Richard Gere.  
**1.55 The Secret Life of the Pub.** (R) **2.50 Come Dine with Me.** (R) **5.05 Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** Peppa Pig. **6.05 Bananas in Pyjamas.** (R) **6.20 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **6.30 Bob the Builder.** (R) **6.45 Ticky Toc.** (R) **6.55 Zack and Quack.** (R) **7.05 Roobarb and Custard Too.** (R) **7.15 Make Way for Noddy.** (R) **7.30 Paw Patrol.** (R) **7.45 Little Princess.** (R) **8.00 Pip Ahoy!** (R) **8.15 Blaze and the Monster Machines.** **8.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.00 Wanda and the Alien.** (R) **9.10 Toby's Travelling Circus.** (R) **9.20 Jelly Jam.** (R) **9.30 LazyTown.** (R) **9.55 The Fairy OddParents.** **10.30 The Championship: Football League Tonight.** (R) **11.25 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight.** (R) **11.55 Police Interceptors.** (R) **12.50 Star Trek: The True Story.** (R) **1.00 Film: Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan.** (1982) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring William Shatner. **3.55 Film: Star Trek III: The Search for Spock.** (1984) Sci-fi sequel, with William Shatner.  
**6.00 Film: Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home.** (1986) The Enterprise crew travels back in time to prevent an alien probe destroying the Earth. The only thing that can avert the disaster is a humpback whale, a creature extinct in the 23rd century – but adjusting to life back in 1996 proves a distinct challenge. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring William Shatner, DeForest Kelley and Leonard Nimoy, who also directed.  
**8.10 Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas.** New series. The magicians challenge illusionists to outwit them with their tricks. Participants include Simon Pegg, who demonstrates "digital magic" using a large tablet computer.  
**8.55 5 News Weekend.**  
**9.00 Film: Grown Ups 2.** (2013) Premiere. A man moves his family back to the town where he grew up, so his children can have the same upbringing he had. While he and his three childhood friends try to relive their kids have a thing or two to teach them during the last day of school. Comedy sequel, starring Adam Sandler, Chris Rock, Kevin James and David Spade.  
**11.05 Film: You, Me and Dupree.** (2006) Comedy, starring Owen Wilson, Matt Dillon and Kate Hudson.  
**1.10 SuperCasino.** **3.10 The Great British Benefits Handout.** (R) **4.00 Wildlife SOS.** (R) **4.50 Great Artists.** (R) **5.15 Great Scientists.** (R) **5.45 Angels of Jarm.** (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00 Jigs & Wigs:** The Extreme World of Irish Dancing **8.00 Do We Really Need the Moon?** **9.00 Film:** Wakolda (2013) **10.25 Himmler:** The Decent One – Storyville **11.55 The Heart of Country:** How Nashville Became Music City USA **1.25 Johnny Cash:** The Man, His World, His Music **2.25 Singer-Songwriters** at the BBC **3.25 Britain on Film:** Brits at Play **3.55 Close**  
**ITV2**  
**11.20 Take Me Out 12.50 Take Me Out – The Gossip** **1.55 Film:** Back to the Future Part II (1989) **4.05 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway** **5.40 Catchphrase** **6.40 Film:** Back to the Future Part III (1990) **9.00 Ibiza Weekender** **10.00 Family Guy** **10.30 Bordertown** **11.00 Family Guy** **12.00 American Dad!** **12.55 The Cleveland Show** **1.50 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records** **2.15 Teleshopping** **5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen**  
**ITV3**  
**11.35 Jane Eyre** **1.45 Wycliffe** **2.55 Agatha Christie's Marple** **4.55 Margery and Gladys** **7.00 Midsummer Murders** **9.00 Carry On Forever** **10.00 Mrs Biggs** **11.35 Film:** Something's Gotta Give (2003) **2.00 Film:** Agatha (1979) **3.40 May the Best House Win** **5.20 Judge Judy** **5.40 ITV3 Nightscreen**  
**ITV4**  
**12.45 Live Darts:** UK Open. The quarter-finals at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **5.00 Storage Wars:** Texas **5.55 The Car Chasers** **7.00 Live Darts:** UK Open. The semi-finals and final at the Butlins Minehead Resort. **11.00 Film:** Smokin' Aces (2007) **1.10 Ax Men** **2.10 Highway Patrol** **2.35 Movies Now** **2.45 ITV4 Nightscreen** **3.00 Teleshopping**  
**E4**  
**12.30 The Rocker** (2008) **1.00 New in Town** (2009) **2.50 Tooth Fairy** (2010) **4.50 Evolution** (2001) **6.50 The Time Traveler's Wife** (2009) **9.00 Morning Glory** (2010) Premiere. A TV producer tries to revive an early morning TV show's fortunes, but has to contend with presenters who hate each other. Comedy, with Rachel McAdams and Harrison Ford. **11.05 Underworld:** Rise of the Lycans (2009) **12.50 The Great Beauty** (2013) **3.40 Close**

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## FILM CHOICES

### MONDAY

**Smoke Screen, Channel 5, 3.15pm**

A TV reporter finds herself thrown into the midst of a murder investigation when she wakes up next to a dead body and cannot remember a thing about the night before. Fighting to prove her innocence, she must use all of her investigative skills to get to the bottom of the killing. Drama, with Jaime Pressly. (2010)

### TUESDAY

**Forget Me Not, BBC1, 11.45pm**

A teenager about to graduate from high school has put a horrific incident in her childhood behind her. When her friends begin disappearing, she is forced to face up to her past misdeeds, as she discovers an angry spirit is seeking revenge on them for a crime they committed as children. Horror, starring Carly Schroeder and Cody Linley. (2009)

### WEDNESDAY

**Confessions of a Shopaholic, BBC1, 11.45pm**

Aspiring fashion journalist Rebecca Bloomwood accepts a position writing for a financial magazine. As she sets the publishing world alight with her unique brand of consumer advice, Rebecca is forced to confront her own purchasing habits and begins to question whether rampant spending sprees are worth the price to true happiness. Comedy, starring Isla Fisher, Hugh Dancy, Krysten Ritter and Joan Cusack. (2009)



Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, Friday, BBC2, 11.30pm

### THURSDAY

**The Mystery Cruise, Channel 5, 3.20pm**

During a three-day murder-mystery game on board a cruise ship to promote the release of her bestselling mother's latest novel, a private investigator and her best friend suspect that a real killer may be on the loose. Thriller, starring Gail O'Grady. (2013)

### FRIDAY

**Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil, BBC2, 11.30pm**

An antiquities dealer in a Deep South town kills his gay lover, claiming his actions were in self-defence. A journalist sent to write a feature on the party stays in town to cover the trial, and delves into the local underworld to discover what really happened. Fact-based drama, starring John Cusack. (1997)

# A very different side of life awaits the stars

**T**ake a gaggle of television personalities, drop them into a completely alien location stripped of all the comforts of modern life and make them fend for themselves.

No it's not I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here, Celebrity Big Brother or Bear Grylls: Mission Survive.

Instead, this social experiment, the first version of which first aired in 2009, is actually one of those examples of quality reality TV that uses pampered stars to full effect while raising awareness of a key social matter.

The premise of Famous, Rich and Homeless is quite simple: four Sports Relief volunteers agree to sleep rough on the streets of London to experience the harsh reality of homelessness in the UK.

Back in 2009, comedian Hardeep Singh Kohli, former tennis player Annabel Croft, ex-newspaper editor Rosie Boycott, Winston's Churchill's great nephew the Marquis of Blandford, and Coronation Street actor Bruce Jones all took part.

Now following in their footsteps are

comedian Nick Hancock, TV presenter Julia Bradbury, former snooker player Willie Thorne and celebrity cleaner Kim Woodburn.

Over two shows, the quartet all struggle with isolation, fear, the cold and wet, and the effort of day-to-day survival. For each volunteer the streets become a test of strength and self-reliance – and not everybody copes.

In addition, the famous faces also start to examine their own lives and their personal relationship to homelessness.

Thorne has gambled hundreds of thousands of pounds away during a 40-year gambling addiction and has recently gone bankrupt.

Meanwhile, Woodburn survived being homeless herself as a teenager and has strong opinions on how deserving of help – or not – the homeless are in the UK.

This social experiment, again led by John Bird, founder of The Big Issue, aims to expose the realities of the homeless problem in the UK.

The number of rough sleepers has gone up 55 per cent and the average

age of death for a homeless man is just 47 years old, 43 if you're a woman.

One in 10 of us will experience homelessness in some form during our lives, and it can happen to anyone – Halle Berry, Jim Carrey, Daniel Craig, Ella Fitzgerald, Jennifer Lopez, Hilary Swank, Charlie Chaplin and Harry Houdini are just a few of the global superstars who slept rough before making their showbiz millions.

Despite this show's worthy themes and legitimately jaw-dropping statistics about the number of people who sleep rough every night, many viewers will watch Famous, Rich and Homeless solely to see a group of celebrities taken out of their comfort zones.

However, 2009's experiment proved to be successful in raising awareness through a group of (mostly articulate) personalities who genuinely seemed to care about the subject matter.

Therefore, the show turned out to be effective and affecting – and arguably one of the best use of celebrities that television has seen for years.



Famous, Rich and Homeless, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

# BEST OF THE REST

### MONDAY

**Frontline Doctors: Winter Migrant Crisis**

**BBC1, 9pm**

As trained humanitarian response medics, doctors Chris and Xand van Tulleken have worked in disaster zones across the world. However, the latest crisis is unfolding much closer to home, as Europe faces its largest migration since the Second World War. Now, Chris and Xand are learning more about the medical needs of those who have made the perilous journey from war-torn countries by visiting locations across Europe. The duo discovers that in addition to carrying the mental and physical scars of their homelands, the refugees face fresh problems in Europe. In Greece, the dangerous boat journeys mean that hypothermia and frostbite are prevalent, while in Calais, overcrowding has led to fears of disease.

### TUESDAY

**Happy Valley**

**BBC1, 9pm**

Daniel suspects somebody at school might be responsible for Ryan's new-found interest in Tommy, and tries to explain that he wasn't really a dad to him, while, despite Sean protesting his innocence, Jodie and John receive permission to charge him with all of the murders. However, delight at the

developments is tempered when another body is found in the early hours, and Daryl wakes a stunned Alison in the middle of the night and confesses to murder, leading to dramatic scenes at the breakfast table.

### WEDNESDAY

**Dunblane: Our Story**

**BBC2, 9pm**

Documentary commemorating the 20th anniversary of the firearms tragedy in Dunblane, near Stirling, in which a gunman shot dead 16 pupils and their teacher at a primary school. The film features testimony from a survivor, who was shot as a five year old and details her terrifying experience. It also includes an interview with the headmaster of the school at the time of the shootings, as well as contributions from family members of the survivors and the deceased, including two young women, who talk about sisters they never knew.

### THURSDAY

**The Secret History of My Family**

**BBC2, 8pm**

The Gadbury sisters were three

pickpocketing siblings raised in 1830s Shoreditch, in the heart of London's criminal underworld. The first of a new documentary series on social mobility and social stasis examines how two of them were banished to England's 'thief colony.' However, as a twist on Who Do You Think You Are?, some

remarkable stories are discovered as we delve into their history. Among the ladies' Australian descendants are a couple of Supreme Court Judges and a Government Premier. As for the girl left in England, two of her descendants are a bin man and a window cleaner.

The remarkable story of the Gadbury girls, and subsequent branches of the family tree, are examined by their descendants.

### FRIDAY

**Crafts 2016**

**Channel 4,**

**7.30pm**

New series.



Happy Valley, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

Live from the NEC in Birmingham, Clare Balding hosts launches Channel 4's coverage of the 125th anniversary of the world's largest dog event, continued from More4. This edition features a lively debate on canine health and welfare, with Professor Noel Fitzpatrick, Kate Bevan and Nick Blayney, and a look at the benefits of microchipping before it becomes compulsory under UK law next month. Plus, Iwan Thomas tries his hand at dog agility, and judging comes from the Vulnerable Breed and Gundog group.

**Land of Hope and Glory – British Country Life**

**BBC2, 9pm**

For almost 120 years, Country Life magazine has been the property bible for anyone looking to buy a grand country house. Jane Treays spends a year visiting cottages, manor houses and castles through the eyes of the magazine - and seeing how people live in them. Properties range from a crumbling historic mansion in Oxfordshire and a glorious Scottish estate basking in its £13million refurbishment, to the inherited turrets of Picton Castle in south-west Wales, and the noisy environment of a huntsman's 18th-century kennels and cottage.

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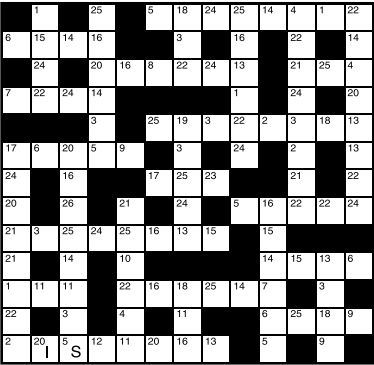




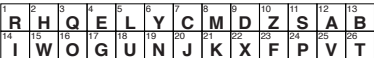
BRAIN GYM No.367

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

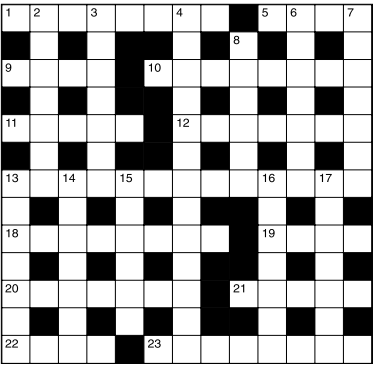
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Neat and honest (8)
- 5. The boss has a lot of horses (4)
- 9. A singular occasion (4)
- 10. The return from the capital (8)
- 11. The ultimate in sporting entertainment (5)
- 12. Grave words (7)
- 13. Like a miner with time on his hands? (5,8)
- 18. The patient does little to make such treatment effective (4-4)
- 19. One may win it by a head (4)
- 20. Some terrible mishap results in a scar (7)
- 21. Make a false impression (5)
- 22. An engagement, or the girl to whom you may become engaged (4)
- 23. Many steps have been taken for the sake of it (8)

Down

- 2. One isn't shaken, though it may make one shake (7)
- 3. The usual hail-storm? (7)
- 4. Is he making an empty protest? (6-7)
- 6. Possibly pray when under the treatment (7)
- 7. Many felt irritated and abandoned (7)
- 8. Daniel is upset by a contradiction (6)
- 13. Sort of boulder lacking rich investments (7)
- 14. Drop of French perfume (7)
- 15. Reporter's comeback perhaps (6)
- 16. Exit to the open air? (7)
- 17. Flag officers? (7)



Quick Clues:

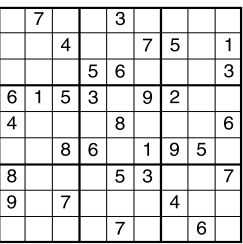
Across

- 1. Expunging (8)
- 5. Twirl (4)
- 9. An insect (4)
- 10. Impressive (8)
- 11. Tranquil (5)
- 12. Immediate (7)
- 13. Stupidity (13)
- 18. Thorough (8)
- 19. Pace (4)
- 20. Novels (7)
- 21. Corn (5)
- 22. Nightfall (4)
- 23. Be like (8)

Down

- 2. Rubbing out (7)
- 3. Utter (7)
- 4. Faint hope (7,6)
- 6. Archbishop (7)
- 7. Nullifies (7)
- 8. Osculates (6)
- 13. Jeered (7)
- 14. Observes (7)
- 15. Draw out (6)
- 16. Quack remedy (7)
- 17. Particular (7)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >



LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Bounty; 4 Prated; 9 Faces the music; 10 Earnest; 11 Nomad; 12 Ramps; 14 Scope; 18 Rings; 19 Records; 21 Private income; 22 Rushed; 23 Modest. Down: 1 Buffet; 2 Uncertainties; 3 Taste; 5 Romantic; 6 To some purpose; 7 Decode; 8 White; 13 Postage; 15 Proper; 16 Brief; 17 Aspect; 20 Cantor. QUICK - Across: 1 Skilly; 4 Bridge; 9 Lackadaisical; 10 Strange; 11 Dumps; 12 Rebel; 14 Depot; 18 Trade; 19 Restive; 21 Animal spirits; 22 Denote; 23 Kennel. Down: 1 Splash; 2 Incarceration; 3 Learn; 5 Residue; 6 Decomposition; 7 Enlist; 8 Waver; 13 Elegant; 15 Strand; 16 Gross; 17 Vessel; 20 Shine.

Quiz

- 1. At which Oxford College did politician Roy Jenkins study?
- 2. Who became chairman of CND for the second time in 1987?
- 3. What nationality was painter El Lissitzky?
- 4. What was playwright Jean Baptiste Poquelin better known as?
- 5. Which British Labour politician was in the merchant navy from 1955-63?
- 6. Which composer's first film score was for Knight Without Armour in 1937?
- 7. What was the comic strip Peanuts originally called?
- 8. Who was Liberal MP for North Devon from 1959-79?
- 9. Whose first novel was Player Piano?
- 10. Which politician managed Gerald Ford's 1976 presidential campaign?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Kingsley Amis; 2 Gabriel Axel; 3 John Blashford-Snell; 4 February 1st; 5 Italian; 6 Claudette Colbert; 7 The Boston Strangler; 8 Stephen Foster; 9 North Carolina; 10 Elias Howe. Niner: DAUGHTERS

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

91729 gives a composer,  
62841 gives a singer,  
374578 gives an instrument.



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Stacey and regulars enjoy the open day after the refurb



It's service with a smile and, above, a close-up of the Classic Combo



# Good food, friendly staff and now refurbished Pigot also has WOW factor

Sue Attwater reports

taken off and not just because of its new look. Now at the helm is Stacey Wallace who has brought back the spark to this Stonegate pub, introducing various social activities to pack the pub with people from the village and further afield. And she is not afraid to roll up her sleeves, she can also take credit for the food as she is a regular in the kitchen.

We popped in recently on a Saturday to celebrate my husband's birthday – I won't say how old he is but quite a few decades – and we were given a special long table so we could be all together, eight adults and three little ones. They are used to catering for families and a kids menu is just £3.99 for a main and dessert.

It was a Saturday afternoon but despite the fact that we were quite a large party we did not feel we were infringing on anyone else's space. In fact there is plenty of seating in the restaurant which can cater for 55 covers. The food was served promptly and although it took a while for us all to decide what we wanted there was no attempt to rush us.

Various dishes were ordered, steak, chicken and fish options, and for starters several tucked into their amazing sharing platters. I say amazing because they are enormous and come in two varieties, the Classic Combo at £11.29 which includes southern-fried-style chicken breast goujons, chicken wings, wedges, onion rings, nachos, scampi, garlic bread and dips.

## Option

And for fish lovers – that's me – the Fish Deli Board at £10.79 has generous helpings of scampi, calamari, salmon and a pot of king prawns in a spicy Marie Rose sauce served with horseradish cream and fresh tartare sauce, seeded granary, stone-baked ciabatta and lemon wedges.

They are also a wonderful option if you just want to pop in for a quick lunch or early tea. I can't talk about all the dishes, as there were so many of us, although I will say it went very quiet when we were eating, always a sign of good food.

As far as mine was concerned I opted for the sole fillets – I did say I was a fish lover – which came with champagne and chive sauce, new potatoes and a selection of seasonal vegetables – delicious! It was washed down by a bottle of their

Tierra Merlot. I know you should drink white wine with fish but I just had to break the rule as that Merlot is lovely and at only £10.75 a bottle is a real bargain.

And as the plates were cleared away they arrived with a birthday cake from the kitchen, made by my lovely daughter and dropped off earlier. Needless to say the grandchildren were on hand to blow out the 'considerable' number of candles.

A lovely afternoon and catch up enjoyed by all – the adults I am afraid stayed and drank a lot later – made even better by the lovely food and pleasant service.

The pub also offers cask ales with regular guest ales from local breweries. There is a large garden and seating areas front and back and a large car park. And just to give you an idea of what the customers think.

Here are just two customer comments.

"They have done an awesome job of the refurb, really stylish and chilled out lovely staff, awesome food and one of the best pints around"

"The pub feels really classy and stylish, but maintains the feeling of a country village pub." Well, you can't say better than that!

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There is an attractive lounge with a polished granite fireplace with a flame-effect gas fire, three bedrooms, a deluxe bathroom with a P-shaped bath with shower above and screen and chrome ladder radiator/towel rail.

The front garden is lawned and there is driveway parking, garage and wrought iron gates to an attractive garden.

Contact 01902 712812 or visit [www.jacksonlileandclose.co.uk](http://www.jacksonlileandclose.co.uk)



## Extended home is well presented

EXTENDED to the rear, this four-bedroomed semi-detached property in Duck Lane, Codsall, near Wolverhampton, is extremely well presented.

In a popular location, it is for sale through DB Roberts & Partners at £224,950. The home has been extended to the rear.

The ground floor accommodation briefly comprises separate living, dining and kitchen areas, as well as a conservatory that opens out onto the rear garden.

The house also has off-road parking for two vehicles via a fully block-paved frontage, double glazing and gas central heating and a rear garden with terraces and lawn and mature borders. Contact 01902 427257 or visit [www.dbroberts.co.uk](http://www.dbroberts.co.uk)



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# Spring Auction

**6pm Tuesday 15th  
March 2016**

at Hogarths Stone Manor Hotel,  
Stone, Kidderminster. DY10 4PJ



**Galahad Way Stourport DY13 8SQ**



TWO high quality 1950's former Police Houses on a large south facing plot in an acutely sought-after location off Moorhall Drive - the properties currently inter-connect, reflecting their most recent use as a Charity Day Centre, but would revert to their original forms very easily indeed. Immense further potential, vacant possession upon completion - Freehold. Energy Rating: D

**Guide Price £250,000-£300,000**

**Stanford Bridge Nr Abberley WR6 6SX**

**OPEN VIEWING SATURDAY 5th MARCH 10am-12noon**



A Prime Development Opportunity with grandstand valley views. A sizeable detached stable with FULL Planning Permission for conversion. The scheme was approved by Malvern Hills District Council on 30 April, 2014 under application number 14/00236/FUL and provides for a substantial single storey layout offering a gross internal area of 100sq.m or 1,076 sq.ft. Externally there is also plenty of amenity and ample parking provision. Worcester & Ludlow each about 15 miles distant. Freehold.

**Guide Price £125,000-£175,000**

**Farm Road Stourport DY13 9DQ**



TWO PURPOSE BUILT MODERN FLATS built approximately 12 years ago - the properties are to be sold together as one freehold lot and have been producing an attractive combined gross rental income of £10,800 per annum. 43A will have the benefit of vacant possession and 43B is currently let at £500 per calendar month. 43A - a one-bedroom ground floor garden flat. 43B - a two-bedroom duplex flat with garden plus fine rear views over the Stour Valley. Energy Ratings: No. 43a: D / No. 43b: C

**Guide Price £100,000-£120,000**



# Thoughtfully improved to include a new kitchen



**ACCOMMODATION** at this four-double-bedroomed semi-detached house in Norman Road, Smethwick is well-presented.

It is for sale through Humberstones Homes at £239,995.

It has a porch, an entrance hall with stairs off, a dining room with a bay window, a delightful lounge with laminate flooring and a coal-effect fire, a refitted breakfast kitchen with cream coloured units and contrasting working surfaces, an inner vestibule, downstairs shower room and a store. Off the first floor are four bedrooms.

The house bathroom has an attractive white suite including a shower over the bath and wall tiling and the delightful rear garden includes a patio, lawn, border and shed.

For further information contact Humberstones Homes on 0121 4344345 or visit [www.humberstoneshomes.co.uk](http://www.humberstoneshomes.co.uk)

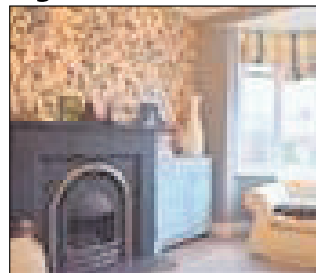


## Traditional property near Warley Woods

THIS well presented spacious, three-bedroomed end terraced property in Abbey Road, Bearwood lies close to shops, schools, Warley Woods and Lightwoods Park. It is for sale through Liberty Estates at £199,950.

It has an entrance vestibule and an entrance hall with stairs off, reception room one has a cast iron fireplace, reception room two an original brick-built fireplace, reception room three with a bay window and a fireplace.

A kitchen has solid wood working surfaces, downstairs WC, three bedrooms (one with a cast iron fireplace) and a re-fitted bathroom with a bath, shower over. Contact Liberty Estates on 0121 4201010 or visit [www.libertyestates.org.uk](http://www.libertyestates.org.uk)



### Dixon & Co Property Auctions

4<sup>th</sup> April  
Starting at 7pm

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A Chronicle supplement

**CHRONICLE**





**COCHRANE CLOSE PEDMORE**

A Prestigious four bedroom detached property situated in a highly desirable residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, downstairs cloakroom, lounge/diner, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, garage, private driveway affording off road parking, carport, lawned foregarden and rear lawned garden with patio. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F  
DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO  
**£1200PCM DEPOSIT £1300 • FEES**



**IBIS GARDENS KINGSWINFORM**

A well presented four bedroom detached property in this much sought after residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, wc, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen and play room. Master bedroom with en-suite, further 3 bedrooms and house bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, rear garden, block paved driveway affording off road parking and garage. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO  
EPC RATING =: D DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO  
**£945.00PCM DEPOSIT £1045 • FEES**



**ALDEFORD DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL**

A Three bedroom Detached property with garage. Accommodation to comprise: Entrance Hall, Lounge, fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms and Bathroom. The property further benefits from Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking and rear gardens.  
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:YES  
**£695PCM DEPOSIT £725 • FEES**



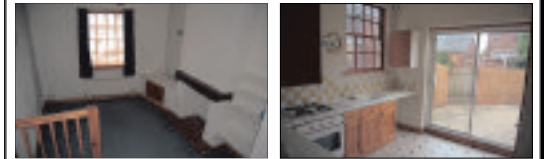
**COLUMBUS AVENUE MERRY HILL**

A three bedroom semi detached property occupying a quiet cul-de-sac location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and family bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed rear garden, fore garden, carport and garage.  
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO  
**£575PCM DEPOSIT £675 • FEES**



**TALBOT STREET LYE**

A three bedroom Mid Terrace property situated in an established residential area. The accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, lawned foregarden and paved rear garden.  
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN: YES  
**£525.00PCM DEPOSIT £625 • FEES**



**HIGH STREET WORDSLEY**

A well presented Two Bedroom Semi-Detached property in the heart of Wordsley. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom. The property further benefits from Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Enclosed rear Garden and newly gravelled Off Road Parking Area, immediately behind property..  
Viewing is highly recommended. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D  
DSS:NO PETS: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO  
**£510PCM DEPOSIT £610 • FEES**



**CLARENCE STREET UPPER GORNAL**  
A two bedroom terrace property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, kitchen, downstairs WC, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking and small enclosed garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C  
DSS:MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO  
**£525 DEPOSIT £625 • FEES**



**DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL**  
A two bedroom first floor Apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance with staircase to first floor, private entrance hall with store cupboard, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating, allocated off road parking and bin store. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D  
DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO  
**£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 • FEES**



**TAMAR RISE AMBLECOTE**

A well presented one bedroom first floor Apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and built in shower room. The property also benefits from double glazing, electric heating and off road parking to the fore and brick built bin store.  
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO  
**£370PCM DEPOSIT £470 • FEES**



**NORTHGATE CRADLEY HEATH**  
A ground floor, one bedroom apartment with accommodation to comprise of kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing, communal gardens, and parking.  
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS:NO CHILDREN:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO  
**£375PCM DEPOSIT £475 • FEES**

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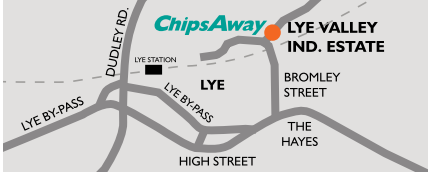
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## DRIVETIME



## VW on the up with the Up!

Volkswagen is presenting a new Up city car at the Geneva Motor Show this week, with larger wheel options, a more powerful engine and a Beats Audio version with a 300-Watt stereo.

While it won't arrive in showrooms until late summer, ahead of planned September deliveries, VW has revealed the details now, starting with revised bumpers, door mirrors now with inte-

grated indicators and LED daytime running lights.

An impressive 13 paint colours will be offered, although it's not clear at this time how many will be free. Three roof colours and 10 'dashpad' designs will allow for more personalisation.

Ambient lighting in high-spec models is another new feature, with white, orange and blue lights in the High Up, Cross Up and electric-powered E-Up respectively.

Despite improved equipment levels, says VW, the base price of the entry-level Up will stay the same as it is now. In the UK that currently translates to £8,870.

The new engine is expected to be a turbocharged 1.0-litre unit already seen in some other Volkswagen Group cars. The 89bhp unit should offer much more torque than the current normally-aspirated equivalent, while still offering potential for high efficiency.

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Based on 5,000 miles per annum, excess mileage charged at 9p per mile. An Arrangement Fee and Credit Arrangement Fee of £149.00 is payable usually with the first and final payments respectively.

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). VAUXHALL Corsa 3 Door Hatchback 1.4i 90PS Limited Edition with 17" wheels, M5: Urban: 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban: 65.7 (4.3), Combined: 54.3 (5.2). CO2 emissions: 121g/km. Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. \*Finance provided by GMACUK plc, P.O.Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance applicants must be 18 or over. Option 1 Pay final payment & keep the car. Option 2 Return the car. Option 3 Trade in against a new vehicle. \*Insurance offer subject to eligibility, terms and conditions. All offers subject to availability, terms and conditions. Pictures for illustration purposes only.

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2012/62 MERIVA SE 1.4 White.....	£7989	£7489	£500
2014/64 CORSA SXI 5 door, Grey .....	£8140	£7340	£800
2012/62 MERIVA SE 1.4 Chilli .....	£6999	£6499	£500
2015/15 NEW CORSA DESIGN 1.4 Grey.....	£11999	£10999	£1000

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2012/12 MERIVA 1.4 SE Pepper .....	£7349	£6499	£850
2015/15 ASTRA SRI 1.4 TURBO White .....	£11999	£10999	£1000
2015/65 NEW ANTARA 2.2 DIESEL Black .....	£21899	£16999	£4900
2014/64 CORSA 1.4 SE 5 door, Black.....	£8990	£8490	£500
2014/64 CORSA 1.4 SE 5 door, Grey .....	£8990	£8490	£500

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## Marking 100 years of Isuzu

The Isuzu D-Max Blade – the flagship model of the multi-award winning pick-up range – is getting a centennial Venetian Red paint finish as part of the celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary since the company first set up operations in Tokyo, Japan. The glowing red colour scheme will be limited to 100 D-Max Blade pick-up vehicles.

The vibrant Venetian Red colour will leave a lasting impression as it takes hints from the same shade of red consistently used by Isuzu throughout the brand's history. The top-of-the-range double-cab Blade is available from just £25,999 in manual transmission and

the eye-catching Venetian Red finish comes at no extra cost. The Blade, which has been a big hit since it was launched in 2014, is already available in Cosmic Black or Pearlescent White.

The D-Max Blade range-topper comes with a host of extra features and quality interior appointments for a premium level of comfort and refinement, including superior leather upholstery, 18-inch Shadow alloy wheels and choice of Black Mountain Top Roller Cover with Black Rear Style Bar or Colour Coded Aeroklas Leisure Canopy.

At the heart of the Blade remains the powerful-yet-efficient 2.5-litre twin-turbo diesel engine, producing 163 PS and 400 Nm of torque. Isuzu's advanced power unit returns a highly im-

pressive fuel economy of 38.7 mpg on a combined cycle.

Owners also benefit from a heavy-weight towing capacity of 3.5 tonnes (braked trailer) and 1,072 kg (manual) / 1,067 kg (auto) payload.

Isuzu entered its centenary year on a rich vein of form, as the longest-running Japanese car manufacturer continues to break sales records in the UK. With 6,220 vehicle registrations in 2015, Isuzu UK made a 13 per cent year-on-year improvement while also recording a 478 per cent sales boost compared to five years ago. Further model news is expected later in the year.

Every new D-Max sold in the UK is backed by the company's pioneering, five-year / 125,000-mile warranty.

 <b>10/10 Mercedes E200 Blue-CY Sport CGI Estate</b> 7 Seater, 52k, Black, Black Leather, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£13995 / £72 Per Week</b>	 <b>12/12 Skoda Fabia 1.6 TDI CR SE</b> 5dr Diesel Estate *£20 ROAD TAX** Average 67 MPG* 42k, Red, Alloys, Air-Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£6495 / £34 Per Week</b>
 <b>06/06 Jaguar XJ Sovereign 2.7 TDI Diesel Automatic</b> 60k, Silver, Alloys, Premium Cream Leather, Sat-Nav, Top Spec - Every Extra <b>£9995 / £51 Per Week</b>	 <b>13/13 Peugeot 107 1.0 Allure</b> 14k, Black, *ZERO ROAD TAX* Alloys, Air Con, CD with Aux, E/Windows <b>£5495 / £28 Per Week</b>
 <b>09/09 Audi A4 2.0 TDI Diesel 143 SE</b> 5dr Multitronic Auto Estate, 88k, Black, Alloys, Digital Air Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£9495 / £49 Per Week</b>	 <b>10/10 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4i 16V (100) Exclusiv</b> 5dr Automatic (AC) *ONLY 27400 miles* Silver, Air Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£5495 / £28 Per Week</b>
 <b>10/10 Saab 9-3 Linear SE Cabriolet TID 1.9 Diesel</b> *ONE OWNER* Black, Cream Leather, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Hood, E/Windows <b>£7995 / £42 Per Week</b>	 <b>07/06 Vauxhall Vectra 3.0 V6 CDTi Elite Automatic</b> 82k, Grey, Sat-Nav, Tan Leather, Alloys, Air Con, Heated Seats, CD, E/Windows <b>£3995 / £23 Per Week</b>
 <b>09/09 Mini Cooper 1.6 Convertible</b> 35k, White with Black Hood, Alloys, CD, E/Windows, E/Hood <b>£7995 / £42 Per Week</b>	 <b>04/04 Mercedes C180K Avantgarde SE</b> 4dr Automatic, 76k, Silver, Alloys, Half Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£3995 / £23 Per Week</b>
 <b>09/08 Volkswagen Beetle 1.6 Sola Convertible</b> *TOP SPEC* 69k, Silver, Red Electric Hood, Red Leather, Heated Seats, Air Con, E/Windows <b>£6995 / £36 Per Week</b>	 <b>04/04 Mercedes C220 CDI Diesel SE</b> 3dr Automatic Coupe, 77k, Silver, Panoramic Roof, Alloys, Grey Leather, CD, Air-Con, E/Windows <b>£3995 / £23 Per Week</b>
 <b>08/08 Jaguar X-Type 2.2D S Diesel</b> 4dr Automatic, 59k, Blue, Alloys, Half Cream Leather, Air Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£6995 / £36 Per Week</b>	 <b>08/08 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TDCi Diesel Edge</b> 5dr [140] Automatic, 118k, Blue, Air Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£3695 / £20 Per Week</b>
 <b>09/09 Mini Cooper Diesel</b> 52k, Black with Chequered Roof, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows <b>£6995 / £36 Per Week</b>	 <b>07/07 Citroen Xsara Picasso VTX 1.6 HDi Diesel</b> 59k, Beige, Alloys, Air con, CD, E/Windows, Panoramic Sunroof <b>£3695 / £20 Per Week</b>
 <b>06/06 Toyota Rav-4 XT4 D-4D 2.2 Diesel 4WD</b> 5dr, 75k, Silver, Alloys, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, E/Sunroof <b>£6795 / £35 Per Week</b>	 <b>09/09 Citroen C3 1.1 First</b> 43k, Black, Air Con, CD, E/Windows, Ideal 1st Car <b>£2995 / £16 Per Week</b>

Finance example: 05/05 Nissan X-trail 2.2 dCi, Cash Price £3495, Deposit 300, Amount of credit £3195, Fixed interest rate 6.25% Flat rate, 11.8% Apr, 60 Payments of £69.90 (£16.13 per week) Total amount payable £4793.44 (Includes £150 Document fee and £150 Completion fee, Subject to status)

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**VAUXHALL**

**Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range: Urban: 12.7 (22.3) - 83.1 (3.4), Extra-urban: 23.3 (12.1) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 17.9 (15.8) - 91.1 (3.1). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 373 - 82g/km.\***

On the road prices include number plates, delivery, Vehicle Excise Duty, first registration fee and VAT. Offers available on orders or registrations between 1 January and 31 March 2016 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 units (purchase only, excluding B2B supported units). All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Savings shown are against list price, for details refer to Vauxhall's current price guide. Offers may not apply to all Retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. \*Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Correct at time of going to press.



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together, House cats.  
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## RAGDOLL KITTENS

Companion breed, permanent  
homes only, vaccinated,  
microchipped and house  
trained and wormed.  
£400 and £250.  
07436 002565.

## MORE CATEGORIES MORE CLASSIFICATIONS MORE CHOICE



01902 317878

Classified Ads

Classified Ads



**YORKSHIRE CROSS** Jack Russell puppy, boy, 12 weeks old, wormed and lead, parents can be seen, £150 o.n.o. 01384 386009.

## vets

## Express &amp; Star

THIS SPACE  
COULD BE  
PROMOTING  
YOUR  
BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

## 5 Business & Farming

## business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

## 6 Property

## accommodation to let

**A TWO BED FLAT** off Tottenhall Rd, CH, DG. Off road parking. £115.50 pw 01902 340073 / 07770 660636.

**NOTICE TO READERS** It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

**DUDLEY AREA**  
Nice One-Bed Flat To Let.  
CH, fitted kitchen.  
£110pwk.  
Including Gas, Electric,  
Council tax and Water.  
No Pets / DSS.  
Telephone 07803 890908.

**TWO BED PROPERTY** to let in Quarry Bank, recently refurbished, private parking. 07763 461841.

## houses for sale

## LOOK

**ASHMORE PARK**  
2 large bedrooms, mid terraced,  
20ft lounge, conservatory,  
slabbed garden, new boiler,  
close to park / Bentley Bridge.  
£115,000.  
07581 145237.

## overseas property

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

## properties wanted

## WE PAY 100% of purchase price



**BLACK COUNTRY HOMES**

## We buy any house

- FAMILY BUSINESS
- COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
- FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE
- NO FEES/FREE SOLICITORS

### WE ALSO BUY LAND

30 yrs

**0800 999 999 6**  
or 01902 628047 24/7

www.black-countryhomes.co.uk



## FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY

- Repossessions stopped
- Legal fees paid
- Houses bought in any condition
- Probate Estates Welcome
- Mortgages / Loans Cleared

CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

**0800 121 6007** **OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS**

Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

www.oakwood-homebuyers.com

### SELL YOUR HOUSE TODAY

• Any Price • Any Condition • Any Area

**Call Paula 01384 467643**

\* Local \* Independent \* Confidential

## Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish  
**Houses/Land Required**

Ring Paul 24/7local on  
**07870 341 089**

Sandwell Area Call 0121 696 4154  
Walsall & Cannock Area Call 01922 432049  
Wolverhampton Call 01902 489901  
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

## 8 Motoring

### cars over £1500

### SELLING YOUR CAR?

We have a package to suit every budget.  
Packages start from as little as  
**£21.00 for 6 nights**  
Plus  
6 nights free if you do not sell.

**CALL 01902 317878**

**PEUGEOT 207 Sportium**, 1.4 VTI, Jan 2012, 5dr, black, 14,000 miles, Bluetooth, sat nav, alloys, fsh, EW, EHM, £5,200. 07860 280232.

**RENAULT MEGANE** October 2011, 1600cc, petrol, red, MoT till September, excellent condition, 14,700 miles, £5,250 ono. 07939 661821.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN** 1.6 petrol, 2006, 5-dr, half leather interior, 12 months MoT, FSH, very nice spec, 93,000 miles, very clean and reliable. £1,990. 07933 332936.



### FIAT LOUNGE STOP/START

2015, 3,400 miles, black, abs, e/w, air bag, e/m, a/c, alarm, met paint, c/l, one owner, pas, alloys, stereo, CD, panoramic s/r. New job with company car forces sale.

**£7,800 ono.**

01384 376891.

**VAUXHALL ASTRA** 1.6 Club, 58 reg, 59,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, alloys, very good condition £1,899 07879 405302.



### PEUGEOT 308 SW

2008, Hdi 108,000 Miles, Blue, abs, electric windows, Cruise control fsh new battery, new clutch, cam belt any trial inspection  
**£2,750 ono**  
**07811110032**

**VW FOX 09**, 53,000 miles, 12 months MoT, immaculate, in yellow, lady owner. £2,495 ovno. 01384 565140 or 07761 091577.



### SUZUKI JIMNY JEEP

2004, 1328cc, petrol, 4WD, black and silver, 60,000 miles, MoT October, tow bar, spare wheel, cherrished plate, good condition.

**£2,750.**

01691 791544/07980 850051.

**TOYOTA RAV4** 3dr, 54 reg, black with grey interior, service history, £2,795. 01562 710289.

**VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8SRI** 2007, 9,000 miles, grey, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, cruise control, pas, alloys, CD.

**£3,500 ono.**

07425 136504.



### VOLVO C30 D2

2010, 3 door, hatchback, manual, 1560cc, diesel.

Excellent condition, very economical. £30 a year tax, MoT September, alloy wheels.

**£6,750.**

Telephone 01691 791544 or 07980 850051.

**VW GOLF 04**, 1.4FSi, black, low miles, careful lady owner, well looked after, excellent condition, genuine sale, £3,500. 07739 730090.

### cars under £1500

**ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED** that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**CHEVROLET LACETTI**, January 2008, 5 door, silver, 46,552 miles, 8 months MoT, £500 ono. 07854 938883 or 07398 991971.

**CITROEN PICASSO TD**, SX, MPV, TB, 03, full MoT, FSH, immaculate condition. £875. 07469 847937.

**FIAT PUNTO 1.2**, Immaculate, 2002, MoT, Drives all good. 83,000 miles, £395. 07833 645668.

**FIAT PUNTO 2004**, silver, grey, petrol, MoT until June, 115,000 miles, £250 ono. 01902 342143.

**FORD FIESTA 1.25**, 2004, 5 door, 89,300 miles, CD, blue, fsh, MoT, heated screen, Goodyear tyres. Clean. Must be seen. £1,195 ono. 07525 046948.

**FORD FIESTA 1.6TDCI**, 06 reg, silver 3 door, 10 months MoT, excellent condition, £995. Telephone 07498 131071.

**FORD FOCUS** 1.8 Ghia, diesel, 52 reg, long MoT, FSH, good condition. £900 ono. 07903 177567.

**FORD MONDEO** 2 litre LX 02, A/C, CD, alloys, good condition, MoT June 2016, serviced, 2 owners, 49k miles. £375 ovno. 07887 583617.

## classic cars

**MGB ROADSTAR**, 1972, red, good bodywork, MoT, free tax, unleaded engine, hard/soft tops, £5,995 or very near offer. 01384 626369.

**WANTED, CLASSIC Cars**. Private cash buyer instant cash settlement. Any age. Any condition. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.



### CLASSIC AUSTIN MINI

1988, 75,724 miles, blue, MoT, alloys, CD, very good condition, bucket seats, adjustable suspension, original seats, wheels and tyres supplied.

**£2,800 ono.**

07805 904961.

## driving tuition

**Homer's**  
10 Hours £89! Five Hours £50!  
2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered  
AD/PO REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10  
07432 458100 / 01562 870050  
01384 234954 / 0121 5640090  
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

## motorbikes

**BMW R1100GS**, 1999, T reg, red, 40k miles, full luggage, new tyres and starter motor, excellent condition, £2,900 ono. 07491 068850.

**HONDA 600CC** Silverwing scooter, 03 reg, long MoT, £1,200. Honda C90, 1986, £650. Call for details 0787 722908.

**HONDA 650CC DEAUVILLE W** reg, 32,000 miles, very good condition, Full MoT. New tyres just fitted. £1,500 ono. 07877 722908.

## scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**MCB**  
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS  
Tel: 01902 408176  
1000's of parts available at all times  
MONMORE RD, WV1 2TZ

**A BETTER PRICE** for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.  
**NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD**  
Brierley Hill 01384 76556 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DYS 3JZ.

## vehicles wanted

**CROWN MOTORS** guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, 01902 597035.

## alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash  
Top prices paid. HP settled.

Buyer could call.

**01562 711083 / 07831 245313**

### spares & accessories

### clutches / brakes / gearboxes

## A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE

30 yrs experience

ALL AREAS COVERED

Call Bob

**01384 251328 or 07972 169554 anytime**

For Example:  
**Citroen C1, C2, C3**  
**Hyundai 110**  
**Toyota Yaris**  
**Clio's & Micras**  
Ring for quotes on others!

### tow bars & trailers

**TRAILER**, 4ft x 3ft, with jockey wheel, £140 ono. 07805 942308.

## 9 Local Information

### public & legal notices

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES** For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146** or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

## 10 Personals

## personal

**AT MANYANA** Gentlemen's Club, 5\* customer rated Mon-Fri 10-9pm, Sat-Sun 10-11pm. 0121 472 7281.



**GENTLEMAN**  
Would like to meet another Gent for friendship, holidays, fun and outings.  
**Box Number P20246**, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



**I AM IN LATE 60'S WIDOWED**  
Very modern, fit, sincere and caring would love to meet a genuine widower for Friendship.  
Photo appreciated and returned.  
**Box Number P20244**, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



## general

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.



### STRAITS FC

Based Bilston-Coseley border.

Own private pitches.

Looking for Players:

Under 8's and Under 13's

for next Season.

Also Managers and Coaches.

Contact Steve Ball:

**07542 359020.**



SAVE MONEY  
OFF YOUR  
NEWSPAPER?

**FREEPHONE 0800 146 540**



# Express & Star DATING

**YOUR regional dating service**, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. **REAL people in YOUR region**



Here's how to use your dating service ...

To **Place** your advert call: **To Place** your ad by text

**0844 381 5936**

and follow the simple instructions

Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098** **FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

**YOU** can now **Date ONLINE** or via your mobile just visit:

**http://dating.expressandstar.com**

**THE** biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet **you.. visit..**

**http://dating.expressandstar.com**

## Single Women

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**HONEST** sincere affectionate nurse, 48, OHAC, WLTM kind friendly male/single dad for dates, chats, laughter and more. Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421111

**I'M** Chloe, 33yrs old, sensual blonde lady with fabulous figure, workaholic, seeking new circle of men for casual fun. Looks/age/status unimportant must be fun and openminded. Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 420261

**SUSANNAH**, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

**ROSIE**, 43yrs, bored and lonely, I don't get out much but would like to meet a nice chap married or single, fun only pls. Tel only Box 4078225

**MICHELLE** 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy, Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420791

**JENNI**, hairdresser, brunette, caring and fun. WLTM chap any age, must be discreet with car, I have a nice home to meet in. Text only Box: 4139156

**DEBS** lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420729

**KAREN**, curvy brunette, 42yrs loves men of all ages and sizes but must make me laugh .I am married with open marriage. Text only Box: 4202257

**JULIE**, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and sharing affection, seeks similar romantic male friend for TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357

**JANE**, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417965

**46YR** old Asian lady looking for friendship maybe more with white male 50+ Text only to Mailbox: 5404865

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673

**TRISH**, 45, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC. WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421137

**SUE**, 38yrs, passionate, broadminded and feisty seeks discreet fun with Mr Wrong! Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 413007

**LOUISE** 35, loves meals out, WLTM tallish, considerate mature male who is not too keen to express themselves and enjoys life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box: 421135

**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715

**ANGELA**, 42, green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind of guy for good times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421115

**LUCY** first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3026 Box: 420237

**MARGARET** 39, dark hair/eyed attractive petite divorcee, new to area and looking to start a new life, WLTM kind friendly male, single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421129

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399

**ANNA**, 41, new to single life seeking caring professional male for no strings fun, attention and laughter. Life is too short, lets enjoy it! Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box: 421127

**KAREN**, 42yrs, attractive and broadminded, seeks no strings fun with chap any age, must be discreet. Tel: 0906 515 3038 Box: 407953

**BEV** 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420715

**SUE**, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420701

**CAROLINE**, 42yrs, slim attractive blonde, varied interests and solvent, WLTM honest male of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420685

**CHRIS**, 67, brunette, cuddly, WLTM caring, kind gentleman, for days out, meals out, walks etc and for just being together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420667

**LILY**, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. Text only mailbox no: 5372466

**SAMANTHA** pretty brunette, very busy 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599

**YVONNE**, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420669

**48** year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839

**FEMALE**, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. Text only to mailbox: 5392585

**CAROL** 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757

**48** year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839

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**LOUISE**, 47, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420445

**ALEXA** 49 - slim, attractive, long-haired slim loving female, with many interests including dining out, the arts, photography WLTM similar male. Text only to Mailbox no: 5345662

**CHLOE** pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420359

**TRISH**, 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC. WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420601

**MADDIE** extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420563

**CHRIS**, 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420491

**SALLY**, 46, slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTM similar male for friendship and more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420475

**JACKIE** lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169

**SARAH**, curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTM date again, looking for male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420207

**ANN**, 38, very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTM similar kind male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420355

**REMEMBER:** Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**CATHY**, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420755

**TARA** 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTM very appreciative confident male for adult fun Contact me anytime. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417401

**FEMALE**, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545

**LYN**, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795

**KELLY** young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420195

**48** year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839

**FEMALE**, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. Text only to mailbox: 5392585

**CAROL** 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757

**48** year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839

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**FEMALE** medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5yrs, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

**WIDOW** 50, blonde hair, GSOH, 5ft 5yrs, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415767

**MARIE**, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

**FEMALE** 50's, 5ft 5yrs, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks gent with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871

**BLUE** eyed female, blonde hair, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989

**AMANDA**, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411117

**CAROL** Ann, sensitive slim brunette very lovely for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419385

**KIRSTEN**, 36, attractive, blonde and very bored, seeking open-minded decent male for fun/friendship, 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419383

**VAL** 41, pretty, cuddly, flirt, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601

**MID** naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

**DIVORCED** female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419219

**LINDA**, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211

**FREYA** 24yr old single mum, looking for male for free time frolics, call me if you're interested, it could be fun! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419851

**LISA** 38 slim attractive blonde, looking for a man who will appreciate a feminine, fashionable, fun, romantic sensual woman with a mind of her own. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419839

**SARAH** 38, slim, nice looking, sensual, tactile, no ties, WLTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419821

**PAT** 66, attractive, N/S, likes reading, nights out, seeks gent for friendship, days out and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418277

**68YR** old widow, attractive, seeks sincere N/S male, likes reading, meals out and walks. West Midlands. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414773

**JULIA** 47, looking for genuine, reasonably attractive male friend, may lead to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419695

**LADY** Penelope seeks her very own Parker (47-58) to go on a voyage of discovery and romance. Text only to Mailbox no: 4550237

**FEMALE** fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

**BLACK** lady seeks white male over 60, any location, for friendship and hopefully a lot more. Text only to Mailbox no: 4256384

**CHARLENE**, 24, petite curvy young blonde seeks similar cheeky, fun loving guy for lots of fun and loving. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419597

**JOANNA**, 36, petite, auburn haired female, lovely figure seeks loving older male for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419595

**SHARON** 32, attractive black single mum of one, very tactile and passionate, WLTM male for romantic nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419579

**MARIE**, 43, fun blue-eyed brunette, fit and active, seeks similar male to have a laugh with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419417

**KAREN** 50, widow, likes swimming, horse riding, keep fit, clay pigeon shooting, GSOH, N/S, non drinker, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415211

**CURRY**, farm girl at heart, 32, 5ft 10, single mum, caring, kind, shy, likes walks, cooking WLTM tactile male farmer for LTR. Text only to Mailbox no: 5067001

**HEATHER**, well travelled solvent brunette looking to share a large glass of wine and whatever follows with affectionate man friend. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419031

**PAULINE**, 49yrs, very attractive, curvy divorcee, affectionate and fun, seeks laid back, sincere male for an uncomplicated, loving relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418922

**LADY** young at heart, nice eyes, seeks man 42-52 with good sense of humour. Text only to Mailbox No: 488152

**JAN** 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLTM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609

**JOYCE**, affectionate sensitive widow, bit of a romantic, seeks loving male for lots of TLC. Looks unimportant, it's what's in the heart that counts. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419143

**DEBBIE**, 29, looking for mature professional fun guy, 40-50 to spend good times with. Call me, you have nothing to lose. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419075

**JULES**, sensitive tactile, curvy brunette, hopeless romantic, seeks tall, loving male for fun, friendship and possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419033

**VIRGINIA**, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, romance, fun. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418845

**48** year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839

**FEMALE**, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. Text only to mailbox: 5392585

**CAROL** 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757

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## Police slip behind pace after defeat to Hotshots

DEFENDING Stourbridge & District Snooker League Premier Division champions Norton Social A increased their lead at the top with a 4-1 victory at Pockets SC.

Meanwhile, their closest rivals, West Midlands Police slipped up 3-2 at home to Hotshots SC A and trail the leaders by nine points.

Brandhall Labour Club led 2-0 but were pulled back thanks to teenagers Macauley Gunn and Tom Pepperall. But in the decider, Bal Sembi stroked home an impressive 107 break to clinch the win for Brandhall.

First Division leaders Kinver Constitutional B suffered back-to-back league defeats, this latest 3-2 at home to their closest rivals, Kingswinford Cons B, but, with three matches left, they still hold a nine point cushion.

Kingswinford Cons A are two points further away in third after a 3-2 win against Moor Pool & Snooker B. Amblecote Inst B climbed above Wombourne after a 3-2 win on their rivals' tables.

With division two leaders Stourbridge Old Edwardians not playing, Amblecote RBL B narrowed the gap to seven points, overcoming a 2-0 deficit to beat Kingswinford Cons D. Kingswinford Cons C maintained the pressure with a 4-1 win away to Stourbridge Inst C.

**Results:** Premier Division: Brandhall Labour 3 Pockets SC A 2; Hotshots SC B 4 Baggeridge Social 1; Pockets SC B 1 Norton Social A 4; West Midlands Police 2 Hotshots SC A 3;

**First Division:** Kinver Const B 2 Kingswinford Cons B 3; Stourbridge Inst A 5 Kinver Const A 0; Kingswinford Cons A 3 Moor Pool & Snooker B 2; Wombourne 2 Amblecote Inst B 3; Moor Pool & Snooker C 1 Kinver Const C 4; Norton Social B 3 Stourbridge Inst B 2.

**Second Division:** Kingswinford Cons D 2 Amblecote RBL B 3; Stourbridge Inst C 1 Kingswinford Cons C 4; Amblecote RBL A 5 Amblecote Inst D 2; Amblecote Inst C 3 Kingswinford SC 2; Kinver Const D 3 Stourbridge Inst D 2

## Morris is back on track with the Heathens

CRADLEY'S Ashley Morris insists the Heathens was the only club he would return to in the National League.

Morris had an impressive 2015 season with King's Lynn in the Elite League and Ipswich at Premier League level.

But he hasn't been retained at that level which left the National League as his only option to stay on track – and he's ready to take up the challenge.

Morris is desperate to repay the Heathens management for giving him another opportunity and admits it's a big year ahead.

"To be back with the Heathens is great," he said. "I'll go out there, give it everything I've got."

"I want to give something back to the one club that's always stuck by me."

# Charlotte smashes way into third



Charlotte Bardsley in table tennis action

TALENTED teenager Charlotte Bardsley is celebrating after smashing her way to a bronze medal in a prestigious national table tennis competition.

Bardsley took on the best players in England at the Cadet Girls' National Cup and secured a top-three finish.

The 13-year-old Stourbridge player was invited to the tournament in Bristol because of her position near the top of the Table Tennis England rankings and took on the nine other top players in a round-robin event.

Seeded second for the competition, she won seven matches and finished in third position behind top seed Denise Payet, who was unbeaten,

and fifth seed Mollie Patterson. The match against Patterson was key as her opponent won 4-3 (8-11, 11-6, 11-5, 11-7, 8-11, 8-11, 12-10) in a high-quality encounter.

She also beat third seed Jasmin Wong and fourth-ranked Gauri Duhan, both 4-0.

### Happy

Bardsley, who attends Heathfield School, said: "I'm happy. It was really good but every match was really hard because it's the top 10 best players."

"I played best against Gauri and Jasmin but I think I need to work on getting more power in my shots."

# Sam the man claims Best Boxer accolade

**STOURBRIDGE'S Sam Eggington gears up for his British and Commonwealth title defence next week after adding the Best Boxer accolade to his stash.**

The 22-year-old welterweight walked off with the top gong at the British Boxing Board of Control's Midlands Area awards.

"The Savage" will defend his belts against mandatory challenger Bradley Skeete at the Genting Arena in Birmingham on Saturday night, live on Sky Sports.

Eggington enjoyed a breakthrough 2015 where he seized the WBC International Silver, Commonwealth and British straps in separate contests and all by stoppage.

Eggington beat off competition from Derby's Dave Ryan, who won the Commonwealth light middleweight title, and Leicester's English super middleweight champion Jahmaine Smyle.

Lincoln's Bobby Jenkinson won Best Young Boxer, ahead of his Commonwealth super bantamweight title defence against Gamal Yafai on the Genting bill.

Also nominated were Corby's Simon Barclay, signed to promoter Frank Warren, and Nottinghamshire flyweight Jamie Williams.

Luke Paddock's ding-dong with nemesis Andy Keates for the Midlands light welterweight title won Best Fight honours.

The two old rivals – with Keates winning three to Paddock's two in amateur bouts between the pair – clashed as professionals for the first time at Walsall Football Club.

An engrossing and keenly-contested 10-round contest saw Bloxwich's Paddock relinquish the crown by a point. Best Newcomer went to unbeaten prospect Craig Morris, from Ludlow, ahead of stylish Brummie Cori Gibbs and Leicester's power puncher Lyon Woodstock.

The Best Supporting Boxer category is re-



Winners at the British Boxing Board of Control's Midlands Area awards

served for the 'road warriors,' the journeymen who travel up and down the country often taking fights at short notice.

It went to Worcestershire super flyweight Brett Fidoe, who won one by TKO in 2015. Puncher Elvis Dube, from Derby, and Newark's 'Fonz' Alexander Anderson were also considered.

### Honour

The Boxer From the Past accolade went to Bloxwich's Andy Peach and for Services to Boxing – a Hall of Fame and Lifetime Achievement honour – went to Errol Johnson, trainer at Wednesbury Boxing Academy and promoter of Black Country Boxing.

Halesowen super middleweight Lennox Clarke has been added to Black Country Boxing's 'Cool Hand & The Gang'.

The undefeated boxer takes on Swindon's Kelvin

Young over six rounds on the Walsall Town Hall show, sponsored by Grosvenor Casino Walsall, on Saturday, March 19.

Walsall super lightweight, Luke 'Cool Hand' Paddock, takes on Derbyshire's Lee Connelly in a six round contest at the top of the bill whilst fellow Walsall fighter Martin Gethin makes a welcome return to the Town Hall against 'Fonz' Alexander.

Also in action are Midlands Area Super Welterweight Champion Jason Welborn, the Bowater brothers Sid and Des, West Bromwich middleweight Tom Stokes and two debutants who have made the switch from kick boxing, including Wolverhampton's former world featherweight champion Kyle Williams.

Tickets are £30 (general admission) and £60 (VIP Ringside) on 0845 111 2900 or directly from any boxer on the bill. The weigh-in and aftershow take place at Grosvenor Casino Walsall, Bentley Mill Way, Walsall

## First team win staves off fight for relegation

IN Dudley division 1 Stourbridge Chess Club played away against local rivals Halesowen on Tuesday.

Halesowen fielded two new strong players on the bottom two boards, one of whom was ungraded. Stourbridge were out graded on the top three boards. The final result was a loss for Stourbridge 2½-1½ with Julie Wilson, Sam Bradley and Ron Evans all drawing.

The first team returned to good form and won with ease against West Bromwich in Wolverhampton Division 1, thanks to wins from Jeremy Fallowfield, Nick Arkell, Greg Dyett and Ron Evans and a draw from Sam Bradley. The division is very tight so this win saves Stourbridge from a relegation battle, while almost condemning West Brom, and actually puts SCC in a good position to challenge for the title. Stourbridge were forced to default a game in their Wolverhampton division 4 match. They fielded three youngsters and lost with Charlie-Ann Arkell playing a very good game. This bodes well for the future.

Four Stourbridge players represented Worcestershire in their match against Lincolnshire in the county championships under 140 division. Worcestershire won 9-7 and qualified for the quarter-finals of the Nationals as a result. Sam Bradley was one of the last to finish and in a crucial game, managed to convert a theoretically lost position to a draw.

Anyone interested in playing chess at Stourbridge chess club can contact Dave Scriven on 01384 423642 for more information or visit [www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk](http://www.stourbridgechess.f9.co.uk).

## DT's Knight on charge with a debut double

**Team Dudley 5 Penncroft 1**  
NEW signing Chris Knight struck twice as Team Dudley battered lowly Penncroft 5-1 in West Midlands Division One.

Penncroft almost went in front after five minutes when TD keeper Josh Davies pushed James Moore's shot on to the crossbar.

But it was the home side who took the lead after 18 minutes when Matt Simmons was felled in the box and Knight sent Ben Czerepaninec the wrong way from the spot.

Joshua Gardner's header after 37 minutes brought an equaliser, but TD regained the lead before the break through Simmons.

Skipper James Hawthorne's headed home 10 minutes into the second half, Knight finished from six yards and Nathan Jones wrapped it up.

# Final whistle



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## Blue Hoops on show for Action Heart

FOR the majority of athletes from Dudley Kingswinford, Saturday marked the end of a busy cross country season with their final run round muddy fields at the National Cross Country Championships at Donington Park.

With the cream of the cross country crop heading for the Leicestershire venue this was like a cup final for the blue hoops and an opportunity to rub shoulders with international athletes.

The course was designed to benefit runners and spectators alike with multiple laps of testing, undulating and muddy fields with the ladies setting off over an 8k distance 40 minutes ahead of the men who covered 12k. With the first four finishers to count in the ladies team standings Lynn Sprague was first home for DK in 45:3rd in 44.15, Carol Fisher placed 54:1st in 46.48, Hannah McGuire finished in 47.14 to take 54:7th place and Sarah Cox 58:3rd in 48.29 to place the club 75th overall out of 84.

In the Senior Men's race the blue hoops lined up in the same starting pen as defending champion Charlie Hulson from Sale Harriers.

Ben Foster was first back in 30:0th place in 50.26, Stuart Perkins had a fantastic run to place 62:5th in 55.26, James Wright was 68:6th in 56.12 despite carrying an injury, Simon Hughes was 81:4th in 57.45, holding off a fast finishing Dave Norman in 81:8th in 57.47 with Daren Thompson completing the A team scorers in 59.15. The men's team finished 61:st out of 123 teams.

Twenty four hours later there were plenty of hoops on show for the Action Heart 5. Darran Bishop was first back in 22:nd in 31.39, Sergej Ljubovnikov, 45th in 35.20, Darren Marklew 70th in 37.09, Roger Beddard 71st in 37.10, John Andrews 83rd in 37.44 Tom Cobb 122nd in 40.22 and Rory Campbell 159th in 42.10.

## Yeltz draw on their spirit as Sweeney goal earns a point

**Buxton 1 Halesowen Town 1**  
HALESOWEN put in a spirited performance to earn their first away point in three games against a team they played only days before – and with the same outcome.

The Yeltz started well and applied early pressure to the home defence, forcing six corners in the opening 20 minutes. Aaron Griffiths went close when he was sent clear by Jay Denny, but Myles Wright saved his shot.

Buxton took the lead though in the 33rd minute through a nice header by George Grayson who also started the move.

But three minutes later Halesowen were level when a shot by Dan Sweeney found its way past Wright and into the net for a deserved equaliser.

Buxton made the running early in the second half, Djeny Bembo-Leta shooting over from six yards and with two minutes to go the same player put Ash Worsfold away but he couldn't get a shot in.

On the counter attack, Halesowen went down the other end but saw a shot saved by Wright with his legs.

## Broadhurst edges it for Glassboys

Stourbridge 1 Darlington 0

STOURBRIDGE improved their Evo-Stik Premier promotion prospects with a deserved win over dogged play-off rivals Darlington.

The Glassboys had to survive a severe defensive examination courtesy of Darlington's route one approach. The Quakers had bombarded Stourbridge's defence with an aerial assault from the word go.

It fell to long-serving Leon Broadhurst who finally secured the winning outcome on the hour, lashing home a low, long-range shot inside the foot of the post.

Football

Sutton Coldfield 2 Stourbridge 3

A GOAL in each half from striker Karl Hawley helped steer Stourbridge to a 3-2 victory at Sutton Coldfield and lift them back into the play-off places. Chris Lait was also on target.

Aaron Forde shot the home side in front. But Hawley drilled in an equaliser on the stroke of half-time.

Hawley fed Lait on 57 minutes and then added his second for a 3-1 lead. A delightful Ryan Edmunds free-kick pulled one back.

● Twenty five years since the Glassboys won the Southern League Midland Division in 1991, Stourbridge FC club president Hugh Clark is looking to reunite the title winning side when Stourbridge host Whitby Town at Amblecote on Saturday April 16.

He has already spoken to some of the players concerned, but is currently trying to make contact with Dave Morbey, Kevin Collins, Peter Gocan, Simon Russon and Andy Hodgetts.

Mr Clark said: "There are some players that I haven't been able to trace so far, so if anyone has knowledge of their whereabouts, call me on 01384 392975."

## Oldswinford's Friel is left to carry burden

Pedmore (81-2) lost to Hagley (82-1) by 5 wickets

WHAT might have been a hard-fought battle for the title between two unbeaten sides was almost gifted to Hagley as Pedmore found themselves a man short.

Openers Dave Skelding and Matt Porter found the going tough as Hagley kept the batsmen in check.

Pedmore lost their first wicket at 18. Paul Taylor, in at number three, tried to add impetus to the innings but found it hard against persistent line and length.

John Herdman played some pleasing shots but instead of using the angles and side walls, attempted with rare success to hit the back wall. Taylor retired on 26 and the Pedmore innings closed on 81.

Joe Lennon found his timing out but partner Stead (27no) was finding the going easier. Pedmore had their only victim with the score at 27 but then found Paul Morgan in no mood to hang around. He and John McDonnell chased the runs down with three overs to go.

**Cookley (105-1) beat Oldswinford (98) by 7 runs**

Oldswinford's bowlers were on top early on with Cookley scoring just 18 off three overs. Todd Henderson found his range and started to accelerate.

John Stanaway joined him at the fall of the first wicket at 29. On Henderson's retirement, New Zealander K Morrisey joined his captain, and retired before Stanaway eventually did – with a ball to go.

In reply, Oldswinford lost Harry Stanier to the first ball. Matt Watts joined opener Dan Friel, but a run out cost Oldswinford their second wicket at 36.

Friel carried the burden as three run outs left him last man standing. He failed to take advantage of John Stanaway's friendlier bowling and was run out for 40.

## Cricketer Tufnell to have guests in spin

FORMER England cricketer Phil Tufnell is the star attraction at a Dudley hotel next month.

The Question of Sport captain will entertain with 'An Evening With...' at the Copthorne Hotel, Level Street, Brierley Hill, on Thursday, April 16 from 7.45pm.

BBC Radio WM's Paul Franks will compere the night, while comedy will come from Gary Marshall.

Dress code is lounge suits and a three-course meal will be served. There will also be a charity raffle and auction.

Individual tickets are £55, while tables of eight or 10 cost £50 per head. To book tickets, call 01902 244220.

# LIONS ROAR TO CUP FINAL

Stourbridge Lions 32 Kidderminster 23  
**STOURBRIDGE Lions reached the final of the RFU Intermediate Cup (Midlands) after a thrilling but bruising encounter with local rivals Kidderminster.**

The Lions handed Kidderminster a dream start by knocking on from the kick off and losing the scrum, followed by poor tackling which allowed Kidderminster winger Arthur Morgan to score with less than two minutes on the clock.

Within a few minutes the Lions equalised with a textbook short line out to hooker Scott Langdon who wrong-footed the Kidderminster defenders and crossed the whitewash. Langdon was on hand to score again on the 15 minute mark when he pounced on a loose ball over the try line following a hashed Kidderminster line out. Centre Sam Wilson converted to put the Lions in front.

Stourbridge began to give too many penalties away and were penalised in front of their own posts, leaving Kiddy fly half Freddie Morgan with an easy three points. Both sides then swapped penalties with Sam Wilson again converting.

Tired

A fine piece of back play just before half time saw winger George Tildesley race down the wing, draw his man and then off load for scrum half Ben Tibbetts to score under the posts, again converted by Wilson.

The referee had grown tired of the Stourbridge infringements and waved a yellow card at Langdon in the first minute of the second half. Kidderminster used the numerical advantage and following a line out trundled the ball over the line via number 8 Layton Wilkinson, again converted by fly half Morgan. Game on at 22-18.

Kidderminster soon had a great opportunity to take the lead when their pacy centre George Morgan skipped through a couple of tackles and with a try imminent was stopped by the Lions fullback Ben Tringham.

This proved a particularly vital intervention as just a few minutes later young Ben Tibbetts pounced on a loose ball for an unconverted try.



Stourbridge hooker Scott Langdon crashes over for this first of his two tries

With 10 minutes left, Langdon found himself on the wrong side of the ball and several sets of Kidderminster studs. The referee spotted the 'afters' which earned him a straight card and an early bath. From the penalty Kidderminster found touch five metres out, their line out worked well and number 8 Wilkinson again crashed over. The Lions sealed victory with a George Tildesley try.

They will now meet either Wolverhampton or Bakers Butts on Easter Saturday (March 26). The home team will be decided by Monday's draw.

On Saturday, the Lions are back in league ac-

tion with the visit of Wolverhampton – a potential final dress rehearsal. Their local rivals sit third in the table but the Lions will be looking to extend their winning run to six and also avenge their 18-29 defeat at Castlecroft earlier this season.

Lions 2nds also take on the Wolverhampton development squad at home while the 3rds, aka the Grasshoppers, travel for a merit table game at local rivals DK 4ths.

Last week the Grasshoppers posted a superb 17-10 victory over Bromsgrove Vets, with tries for Stephen Fisher, Duncan Bickley and David Craddock plus a drop kicked conversion from Sean Firth.

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